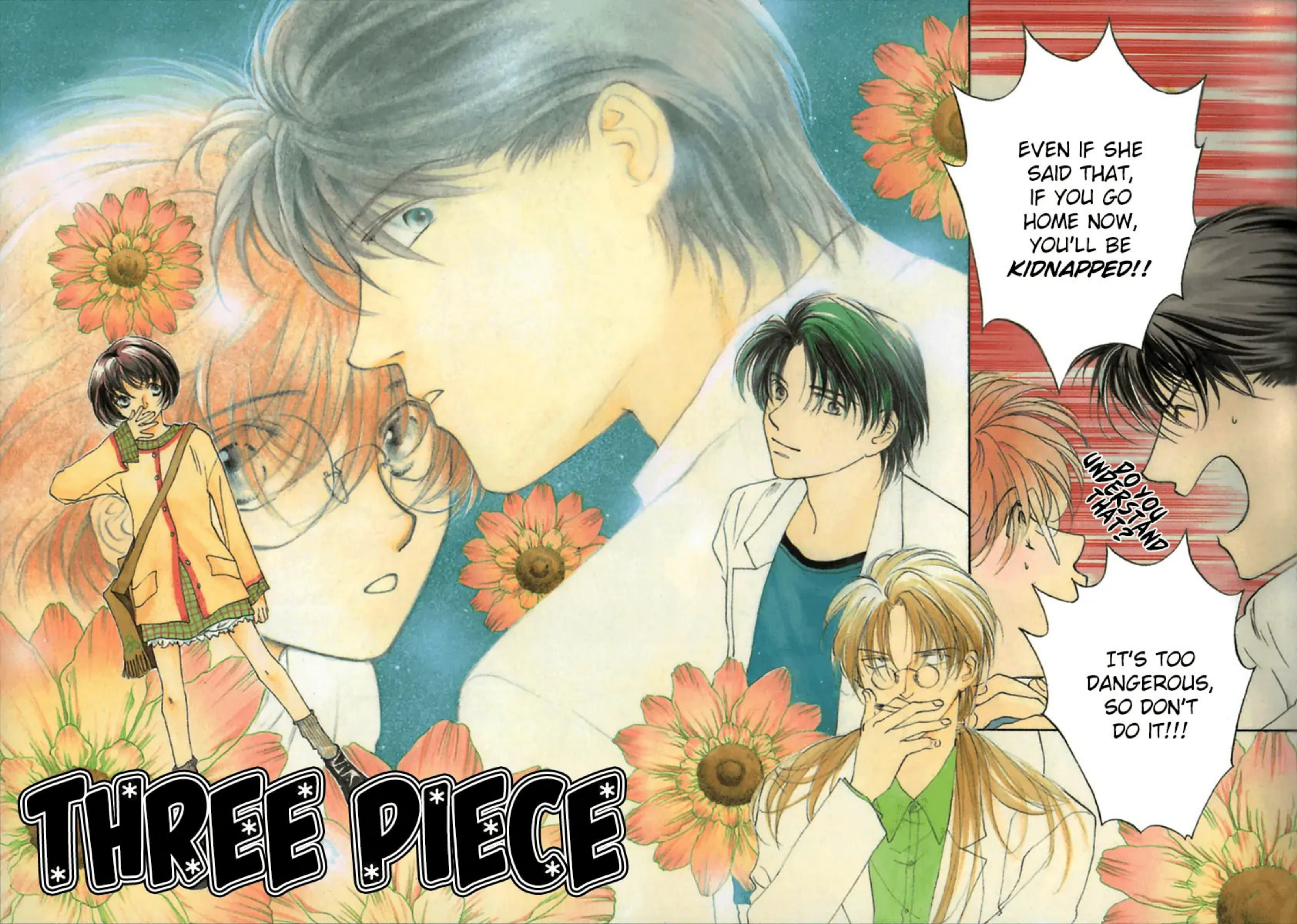




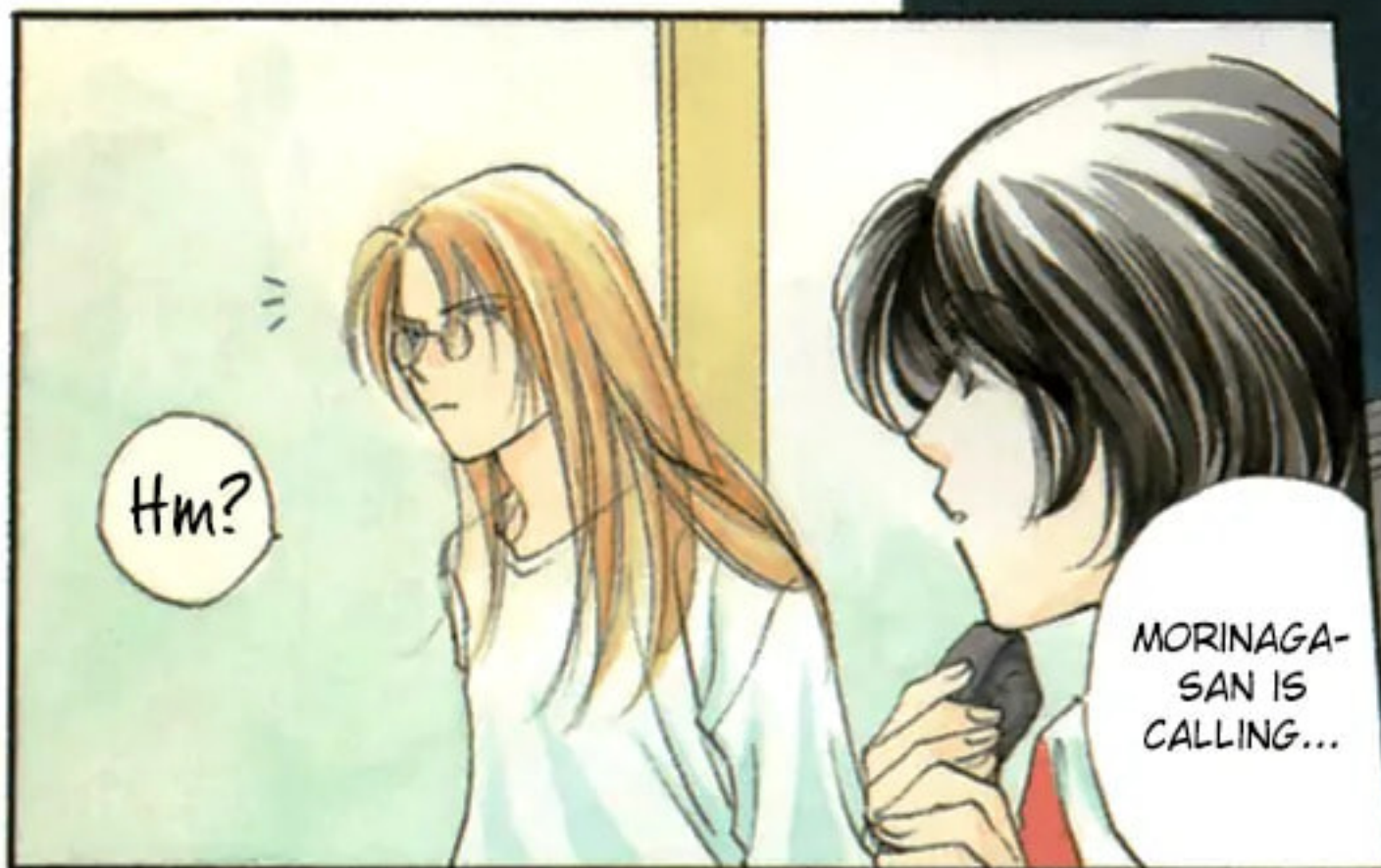


EVEN IF SHE
SAID THAT,
IF YOU GO
HOME NOW,
YOU'LL BE
KIDNAPPED!!

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
THAT?

IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS,
SO DON'T
DO IT!!!

THREE*PIECE*



Hm?

MORINAGA-SAN IS CALLING...

NII-SAN,
SOUICHI
NII-SAN



HUH?
WHAT?

HELLO?
WHAT'S
UP?



YOU'RE
GOING OUT?

YEAH I'LL
PROBABLY
END UP
SPENDING
THE NIGHT
AGAIN,
SO MAKE
SURE TO
LOCK UP



.....
FINE, THEN
I'LL SEE
YOU AT
SCHOOL

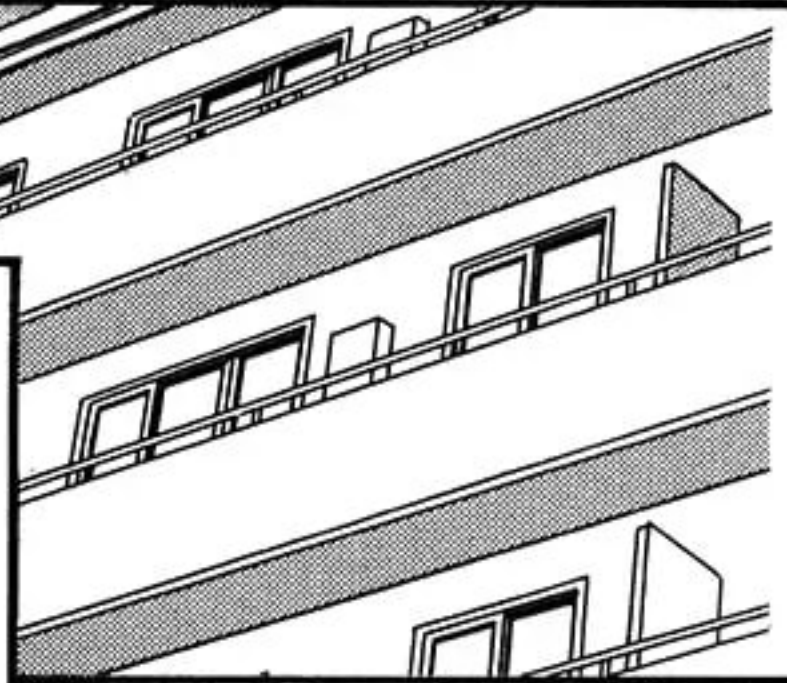
I
GUESS...
NOW?

YEAH
.....

.....



IT SEEMS
IT'S ABOUT
SOUICHI NIISAN



YOU'LL
PROBABLY
NEVER COME
BACK...

TATSUMI-
KUN...



YOU'LL BE
KIDNAPPED!
KIDNAPPED!



AND I'VE
BEEN
WORRIED
ABOUT
HIM TOO,
SO I THOUGHT
IT MIGHT
BE GOOD
TO GO



EH?

.....
YOU KNOW,
IF YOU'RE
SO WORRIED
ABOUT IT,
YOU SHOULD
JUST COME
WITH ME,
KUROKAWA-
SAN

YOU KNOW,
GRADUATE
STUDENTS
ARE QUITE
BUSY

I'LL BE
KILLED!!

NO WAY!!
IF I DO
ANYTHING
MORE TO
IRRITATE
SOUICHI-KUN
THEN....!!

HE'S USUALLY
AT SCHOOL,
SO IF WE'RE
CAREFUL,
WE PROBABLY
WON'T EVEN
SEE HIM...

And I'm not
telling him I'm
coming back

THEN IT WOULD
JUST BE LIKE
WE'RE GOING
ON A TRIP,
WOULDN'T IT?

R-...
REALLY?





I'M SO
GLAD YOU
CAME

TOMOE
NIISAN



HE'S AT
SCHOOL
AGAIN

THUMP
THUMP

Ended up coming along.

SORRY FOR
BEING SO
UNREASONABLE

IT'S
FINE

See,
he isn't
here...

You're
right

Relieved

Stare

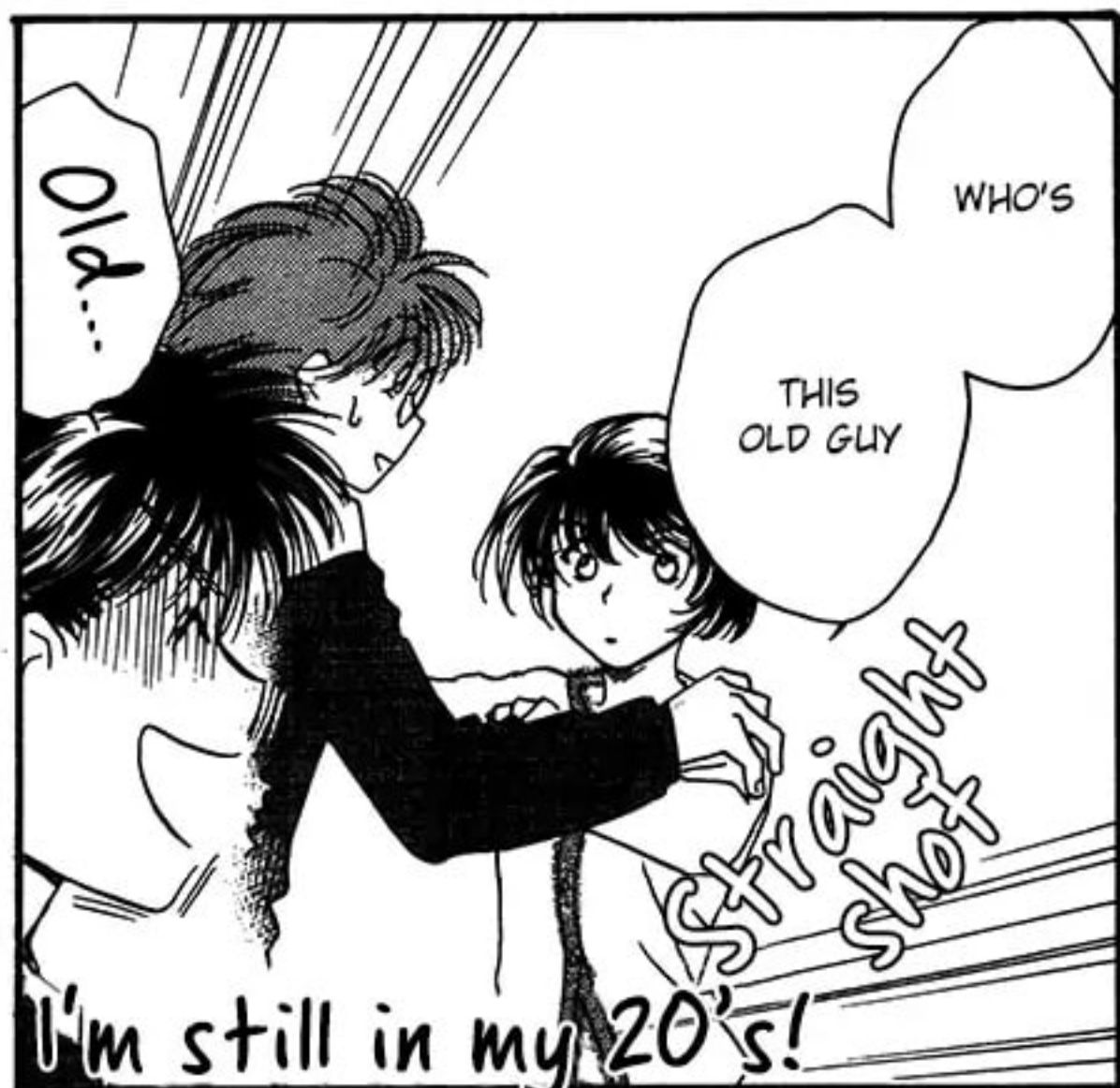
BUT...
WHERE'S
SOUICHI
NIISAN?

HELLO

AH
...



YOUR
LANDLORD
?



Old...

WHO'S

THIS
OLD GUY

*Straight
shot*

I'm still in my 20's!



WOAH

AH...
WELL HE'S
NEVER BEEN
TO NAGOYA
BEFORE...

I REALLY
JUST WANTED
TO COME SEE IT
ONCE!!

WOAH



HMM?

A-
AND...

I kinda
understand
but don't



THAT'S
SO
WEIRD

I TOLD YOU
I WANTED
TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT
SOMETHING,
RIGHT?

WHY
WOULD YOU
BRING YOUR
LANDLORD
WITH YOU?





GAY

WELL
.....
LMM
...

SOUICHI
NIISAN
HAS
BECOME
.....

I
THINK!!

BUT-BUT
I SAW
THEM!!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT,
KANAKO!?!
///

HUH
!?



WHO'S MORINAGA?

AN UNDER-CLASSMAN THAT NIISAN IS CLOSE WITH
I've never met him though.

THEY HAD A DRINKING PARTY WITH THEIR SEMINAR OR SOMETHING AND MORINAGA-SAN BROUGHT NIISAN HOME

IT WAS JUST THE OTHER DAY

THEY'RE CLOSE?
He must be strong...



I'M FINE NOW, SO GO HOME!

SHUT UP!

WHAT HAPPENED? THAT YOU DECIDED TO DRINK SO MUCH...?

THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU

I just made a mistake



MMM...

AND THEN...

WHEN I WENT TO THE TOILET IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

BUT IT WAS ALREADY AFTER THE LAST TRAIN SO MORINAGA-SAN ENDED UP STAYING THE NIGHT







Roar

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? IF WE JUST START TALKING TO HIM ABOUT THIS OUT OF NOWHERE HE'LL THINK WE'RE WEIRD.....

YOU MIGHT BE WRONG, SO LET'S BE CAREFUL

I KEEP TELLING YOU I'M NOT WRONG...

BUT SHE SEEMS SO SURE ABOUT IT, SO...

Whisper

CLATTER

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO TALK TO HIM BUT...

EVERYONE DEPARTING, PLEASE.....

I DON'T THINK SHE'LL ACCEPT IT UNLESS HE DENIES IT HIMSELF

THIS IS REALLY TROUBLESOME ...

HUH

...IT'S MORINAGA-SAN!



HUH?
WHERE?

SEE,
THERE
.....



Come on,
let's go

HUG♡



Sorry,
I'm late

It's
fine



AHH, THAT
PERSON?

THIS IS A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY
SINCE IT SAVES
US TROUBLE

LET'S
HURRY
AND GO
TALK
TO-.....



HIROTO-KUN,
OVER HERE!!



AH!...
KANAKO-
CHAN!

JUST
NOW THAT
WAS...



HER
IMAGINATION
IS RUNNING
AWAY WITH
HER.

CRAP
...

WAAH!

POOR
NII-SAN
.....

**SOUICHI
NIISAN
IS
BEING
PLAYED
WITH
!!!**

**MORINAGA-SAN
IS A PLAYBOY!**

**BUT
MORINAGA-SAN HAS
ANOTHER LOVER!**

**MORINAGA-SAN
AND NII-SAN ARE
TOGETHER.**

AAAH

A GUY
.....

THAT
PERSON
JUST
NOW
WAS
A GUY,
RIGHT
.....?



WE'RE GOING
TO TALK TO
HIM, RIGHT?
COME ON...

LIAR!
THAT WAS
DEFINITELY
A GUY

CALM
DOWN! I'M
SURE THAT
WAS A
WOMAN!

*There are people
like that*



BUT IT'S
HARD TO
SPEAK UP
NOW...



TATSUMI-
KUN

WHY DON'T
YOU TAKE
KANAKO-CHAN
AND GO
HOME?

WE'RE GOING
FURTHER AND
FURTHER INTO
A SUSPICIOUS
AREA.....

IT
SEEMS
.....

*Suddenly
on a*
**HIGH
STREET**

EEH!?

WE
HAVE
TO-
.....



LET'S
LEAVE IT TO
KUROKAWA-
SAN, OKAY?

AND THIS
AREA IS A
DANGEROUS
PLACE FOR A
KID LIKE YOU TO
BE WANDERING
AROUND

IT'S
DARK NOW
.....

YOU'RE
RIGHT
.....

WHY?
I DON'T
WANT TO!



IT'S OKAY.
HE'LL TALK
TO HIM...

.....
I'M GLAD SHE
LEFT WITHOUT
TOO MUCH
COMPLAINT

...BUT
THIS IS SO
CONFUSING
...

I THINK I'LL
BE ABLE TO
TALK TO
HIM MORE
CALMLY ON
MY OWN

N-NO
WAY!!!?

IF IT'S
LIKE THAT,
IT'S NO
WONDER
KANAKO-CHAN
SUSPECTS
THEM

OH

THEY'VE
FINALLY
STOPPED

And he
headed to a
high street
arm in arm
with a
guy.....

WELL,
I GUESS
I'LL TRY
TALKING
TO HIM
FOR
KANAKO

...HM?

Eh?
Does this
mean I have
to go
in there
too?

GAY BAR
AMSIT

Chatter



Creak

IT'S QUITE CROWDED IN HERE

AND THERE REALLY ARE ONLY GUYS.....

ARE THEY ALL...?

I-I don't want to think about it...

EVEN THOUGH HE'S ONE OF THEM...

WAH!

Y-YES!

HELLO, IS IT YOUR FIRST TIME HERE?

Chatter

I'VE COME AT A TROUBLE-SOME TIME
Of all the times...

HMM

Chatter



Well thanks...

PLEASE TAKE A DRINK COUPON

TODAY'S OUR 5TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Hold out







HATE NIISAN
BECAUSE
OF IT OR
ANYTHING

WELL, I
WOULDN'T...

BUT IF
I LIKED A
GIRL...

HE
REALLY
IS!

HE'S SUCH A
BAD BROTHER
FOR MAKING
YOU WORRY
ABOUT HIM
LIKE THIS

YOU'RE
SO KIND,
KANAKO
...

AND IF MY
FRIENDS
WOULD LOOK
AT ME WEIRD
AND SAY
AWFUL
THINGS

I'D HAVE
TO WORRY
ABOUT HOW
I WOULD
EXPLAIN IT
TO DAD

SO I'M SURE
IT WOULD BE
TROUBLESOME

AND ALL
SORTS OF
THINGS THAT
IT WOULD BE
BETTER TO
NOT HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT



SO YOU'RE THE
LANDLORD!!

AAH!!



THE
LANDLORD
.....



I'LL
JUST ASK
STRAIGHT
OUT

Since you're
the one in
this kind
of store.

AND
HOW DO
YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
ME?

BUT WHY
ARE YOU
IN THIS
SHOP?



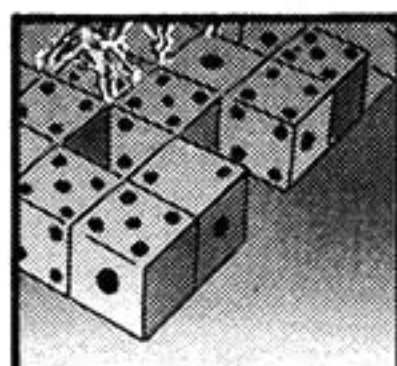
I HEAR
ABOUT YOU
FROM SENPAI
ALL THE
TIME

Wow so this
guy's the one
who took down
the straight
guy

SO IT DOESN'T
FEEL LIKE IT'S
THE FIRST TIME
I'VE MET YOU

LIGH
.....

What kind
of rumors
has he been
spreading...



KANAKO-CHAN
SUSPECTS
US!?

SOUICHI
NIISAN
.....

Pout
!

SH-...
SHE
SAW ME...
LAST
TIME...

UH
?

IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT!!
IT WAS JUST
SOMETHING I
DID ON A
WHIM!!

Hehe
AH-A
THIS IS
WHY YOU
SHOULDN'T
DO BAD
THINGS

Getting
closer

Zzz

He's not
awake?
Yeah he's not
awake!!

I MEAN
SENPAI WAS
DEAD DRUNK,
SO HE
WAS SO
DEFENSELESS
...!!



DON'T
WORRY!

I WON'T
GET IN THE
WAY OF
YOUR LOVE!

I see
So you like
Souichi-kun?

WE'RE NOT
EVEN CLOSE
TO LOVERS!
IT'S NOTHING MORE
THAN ONE SIDED
ON MY PART

CAN YOU
PLEASE
EXPLAIN IT TO
KANAKO-CHAN
SOMEHOW!?



ACTUALLY
JUST THE
OTHER
DAY

HE
FOUND OUT
SPECTAC-
ULARLY

Or rather,
I told him.

Haha



IF YOU
DID THAT
WITHOUT BEING
CAREFUL AND
HE FOUND OUT
YOU'D BE HALF
DEAD RIGHT
NOW

BUT YOU
MUST
KNOW
NO FEAR

And you have
strange
tastes.

AH...
WELL THAT



EH?



FOR SOME
REASON HE'S
JUST LETTING
IT BE...

WELL,
I DON'T
REALLY GET
IT EITHER

BACK
UP

THEN HOW
ARE YOU
STILL ALIVE!?

HE
KNOWS?



THEN YOU'RE
AMAZING...

Haa.....

EH?

BUT I
FINALLY
GET

.....
I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT
.....

WHY
SOUICHI-KUN
HAS BEEN
SO WEIRD
RECENTLY...



IF YOU'RE ABLE
TO STILL HANG
OUT WITH HIM
EVEN THOUGH
HE KNOWS...

THAT MUST
MEAN THAT HE
REALLY TRUSTS
YOU

And that's no ordinary
level of trust

YOU-
...

YOU
REALLY
THINK
SO.....?



YOU- YOU
THINK SO!?

GRAB

I DO! YOU
SHOULD
HAVE SOME
CONFIDENCE!!

I'M SURE
YOU'LL BE ABLE
TO CURE HIS
HOMOPHOBIA!!



AND
SO THAT'S
WHY YOU
DON'T SEEM
LIKE A
STRANGER!!

OH!
I SEE!

CLING

KIND OF
MAKES
US LIKE
BROTHER-IN-
LAWS!!

AND WHEN
I THINK
ABOUT IT,
YOU LIKING THE
OLDER BROTHER
AND ME LIKING
THE YOUNGER
BROTHER



Ring



They're
hitting it
off well...

I'LL DO
ANYTHING
TO HELP
YOU BE
HAPPY!!

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH,
KUROKAWA-SAN!



IS...
KANAKO
THERE!?

EH?

SHE'S
NOT?



AH,
TATSUMI-
KUN?

I'VE FOUND
OUT WHAT'S
REALLY
GOING ON.
I MIGHT
BE A LITTLE
LONGER BUT
I'LL TELL YOU
ABOUT IT
WHEN I GET
BACK



WHY?

KANAKO
.....



YES!
HELLO?

KUROKAWA-
SAN!!



WHAT?
SHE'S
GONE!?

SHE NEVER
GOES ANYWHERE
WITHOUT TELLING
SOMEONE THIS
LATE

COULD
SHE HAVE
GONE TO A
FRIEND'S OR
SOMETHING?

I THOUGHT SHE
WENT TO THE
CONVENIENCE STORE
OR SOMETHING BUT
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
AND SHE HASN'T
COME BACK...



LEAVE IT
TO OTHER
PEOPLE

I REALLY
CAN'T...



Freeze

!!

BUT WHEN I
THINK ABOUT IT,
SHE DOESN'T
KNOW WHERE
YOU ARE,
SO THEN THE
OTHER PLACE
SHE WOULD
GO IS...

I
FIGURED
SHE MIGHT
GO THERE,
SINCE SHE
WAS UPSET
ABOUT GOING
HOME FIRST...

I DON'T
WANT TO
THINK IT'S
POSSIBLE
BUT...

EH?
WHAT?

COULD
SHE HAVE
GONE TO
SOUICHI-KUN
!?

GEH!



AND MORINAGA
LEFT EARLY,
SAYING HE HAD
SOMETHING
TO DO

I GUESS
I SHOULD
LEAVE SOON
TOO.....

So
tired...

IT'S
ALREADY
THIS
LATE...

Sigh

Footsteps

Open

!?

WHAT
IS SHE
PLANNING
ON DOING!?

LIGH
.....

KANAKO?

SOUICHI
NIISAN!!

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE SO
LATE...

Pant
Pant

EAR

HM?

NIISAN!

...

IF IT'S
SOMETHING
URGENT,
YOU SHOULD
CALL MY
CELL PHONE,
YOU KNOW!?

YOU
SHOULDN'T
RUN
AROUND BY
YOURSELF
THIS LATE!

Serious



AND SHE'S
CONFUSED
ABOUT
HIROTO-KUN
TOO,
IT SEEMS

KANAKO-CHAN
IS STILL
MISTAKEN
ABOUT YOU
GUYS

THIS IS
BAD



MORINAGA-
SAN IS
A BAD
PERSON!!

Why?
EHH!?



IT'S FINE.
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
HIDE IT
ANYMORE

CALM DOWN.
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH YOU
LIKE HIM,
YOU'RE BEING
TRICKED

HEY

I KNOW
NOW

!?

YOU AND
MORINAGA-SAN
ARE TOGETHER,
AREN'T YOU!?

Could it be
we're too
late?

AH...

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH YOU
LIKE HIM,
YOU'RE BEING
TRICKED



CALM DOWN.
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND

I KNOW
NOW



YOU AND
MORINAGA-SAN
ARE TOGETHER,
AREN'T YOU!?

Could it be
we're too
late?

AH...

WAH!
KANAKO-CHAN,
DON'T SAY
ANYMORE!

I MEAN,
I SAW YOU
GUYS KISSING
THE LAST TIME
HE STA-

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING,
KANAKO
!?!

WH-

WH-
WH-
WH-

!!!

CLARE

FLINCH

AAAAAA
AAAAH

OMINOUS

MORINAGA
...?

PLEASE
EXPLAIN THIS TO
ME IN AN EASY
TO UNDERSTAND
WAY

AURA



KANAKO-CHAN
IS JUST
MISTAKEN...
...REALLY!!

I...
I DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING!!



Gah!

STOMP
STOMP

YO-
YOU'RE
RIGHT!

WHISPER
WHISPER

WE
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING FOR
HIM ONCE
HE'S BECOME
LIKE THAT

IT'S
BETTER
IF WE
WITHDRAW



DON'T JUST
MAKE UP
EASY TO
UNDERSTAND
LIES!!!

C-
CRAP

SLAM
WAH
!!



WHAT ARE
YOU THINKING
SPITTING OUT
SUCH STRANGE
THINGS TO A
13 YEAR OLD!?



I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU'VE
TOLD WHAT,
BUT DON'T
GROUP ME IN
WITH YOU
HOMOS!!



EH?

KANAKO

Crap...



WHY
ARE
YOU
HERE!?

IT'S
KURO-
KAWA!!



WAH!
HE
FOUND
ME!!



ARE
YOU IN
ON THIS
TOO?

THAT'S
CRAZY,
I'M
JUST ON
A TRIP!

IS
THIS ALL
YOUR
PLAN!?

.....
HOMO-S?

He said?

HUH?



Suspiciously came together.



With Morinaga.



WHO YOU
LOVE...

HUH?

COULD IT
BE?

KANAKO
...THAT'S
NOT...!

...THEY'RE ALL GAY?

(AND TWO OF THEM ARE FAMILY MEMBERS)

KA-KA-KA-
KANAKO,
CALM DOWN!

**Noo
ooo
ooo
oo!**



sneak

///

KANAKO!?

WHAT'S
WITH
ADULTS
!?!

WHAT ARE
YOU
SAYING?

WAAAAHHHHH!!

HEY,
KANAKO!

H- HEY!!

EXPLAIN
IT TO ME
PRO-...

HEY
TOMOE,
KUROKAWA
!!
WHAT IS
GOING
ON?

THEY
ESCAPED!!
GEH!
They're
really
fast!!

Door on
the other
side.

Empty



WHAT
THE FLUCK
IS GOING
ON!?!

W

What's with
all of you!?







...THAT'S
RIGHT

...I'M
SORRY

THERE
SHOULDN'T BE
ANY REASON
TATSUMI-KUN
SHOULD HAVE
TO THINK
ABOUT THOSE
THINGS

HE JUST HAS
TO DO THIS
BECAUSE HE'S
RESPONDING TO
MY FEELINGS

EH?

WELL

IT'S
JUST
...

HE'S
HAVING TO
GO THROUGH
THESE PAINFUL
THINGS,
EVEN THOUGH
HE SHOULDN'T
HAVE HAD TO

...SHE
ALREADY
KNOWS, SO
I'LL TALK
TO HER
PROPERLY
SOMETIME
SOON

THAT'S
NOT
TRUE
I'M
THE ONE
WHO
ASKED
YOU TO
COME
ALONG

BECAUSE
I CAME WITH
YOU THAT
EVERYTHING
JUST BECAME
MORE
COMPLICATED
...



HOW
MUCH
I LIKE
YOU

PROPERLY





I'VE
THOUGHT
ABOUT A
LOT OF
THINGS
SINCE
THEN...

AND I'VE
DECIDED YOU
CAN'T HELP
WHO YOU FALL
IN LOVE WITH

YOU
GUYS'
HAPPINESS
IS WHAT'S
IMPORTANT

Enlightened
13-year old

I'VE
STOPPED
DISCRIMI-
NATING
♡

KANAKO!

BUT I'M
TELLING
YOU I'M
NOT LIKE
THAT!!



There's
no need
to hide
anything
♡



LISTEN TO
WHAT I'M
SAYING!

I'M
SORRY

YEAH

Agh! How do
I get her to
understand!?

I'M
GOING
NOW!

WHO YOU
LOVE

Open

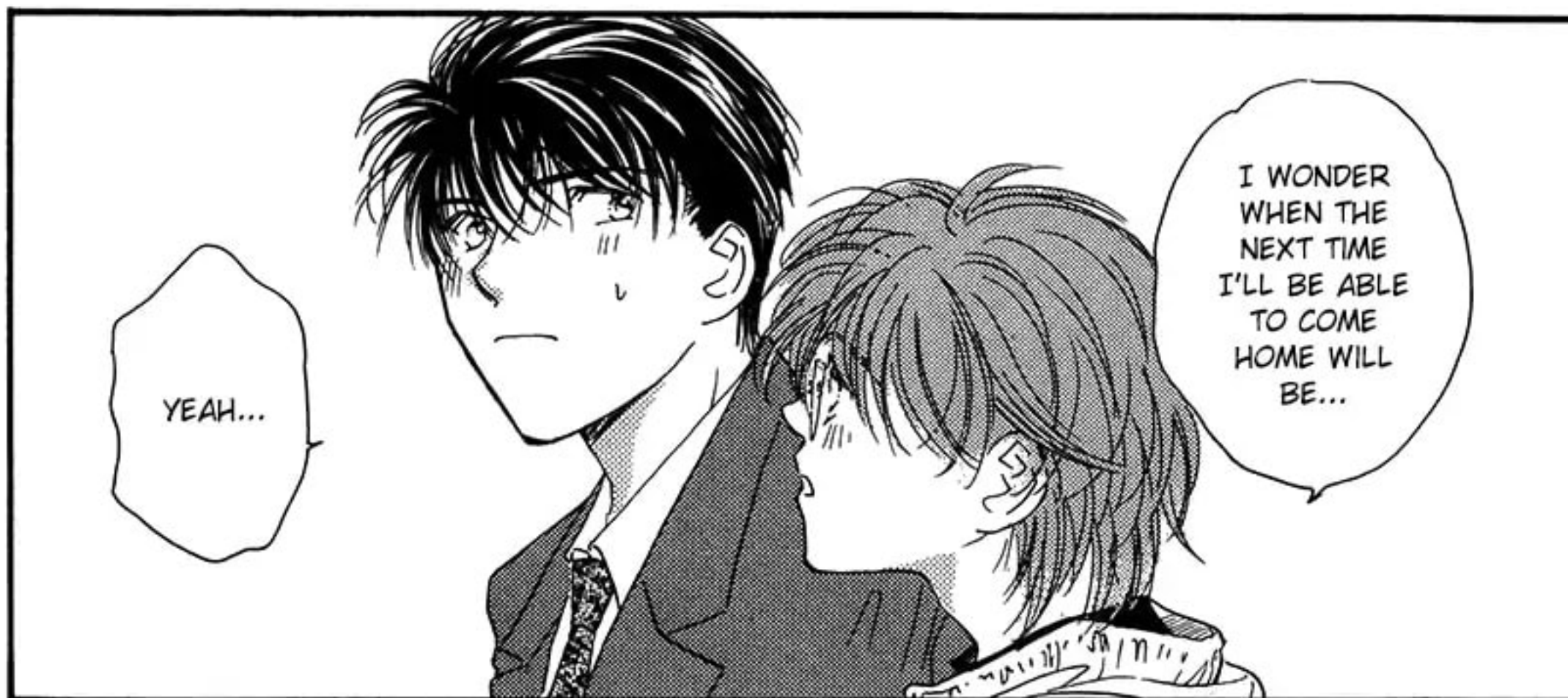
SMASH

SHUT UP!
THIS IS ALL
YOUR
FAULT!!

WAH
YOU'RE
SO MEAN!
BLEEP

WH-WHY
DID YOU
DO THAT
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?!

AH
SENPAI,
GOOD
MORNING



YEAH...

I WONDER
WHEN THE
NEXT TIME
I'LL BE ABLE
TO COME
HOME WILL
BE...



Just by one small
time whim the
trust I've built
up until now is...

I'm a
huge
idiot!

I
REALLY
CAN'T
TRUST
HOMOS!



Good morning,
Kanakō.
What's wrong?
You're
breathing
so hard

IT'S SO
TROUBLESOME!

THEN AM I
THE ONE WHO
WILL HAVE
TO CONTINUE
THE TATSUMI
LINE!?

BUT...
SINCE
BOTH MY
BROTHERS
ARE LIKE
THAT.....



♥ Part 1 ♥

Which One



I have
absolutely
no reason
to go!

Why
should I have
to go to a
**SINGLES
PARTY?**

As my
friend, you
should know
at least that
much!

**Lucky
to be
SO
HAPPY!**

Because
all the
girls from
commercial
affairs
are
coming.

See,
that's what
I don't
get...

Tatsumi-kun
and I are madly
in love!





Could it be due primarily to the selfless aid of your friend, namely me?

Huh?

Why do you think that is?

you say,
"wah, wah,
I don't
wanna."

and assume
that as long
as *you're*
happy, then
the world is
at peace?

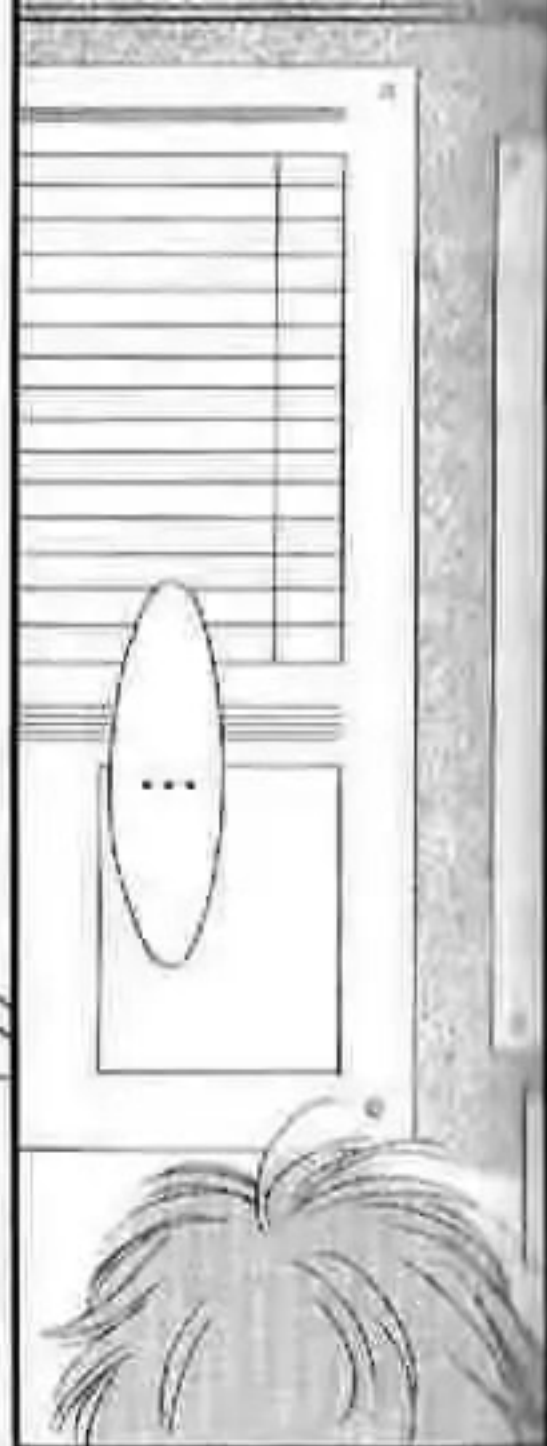
But when I,
your friend,
ask for a
little help
from you.

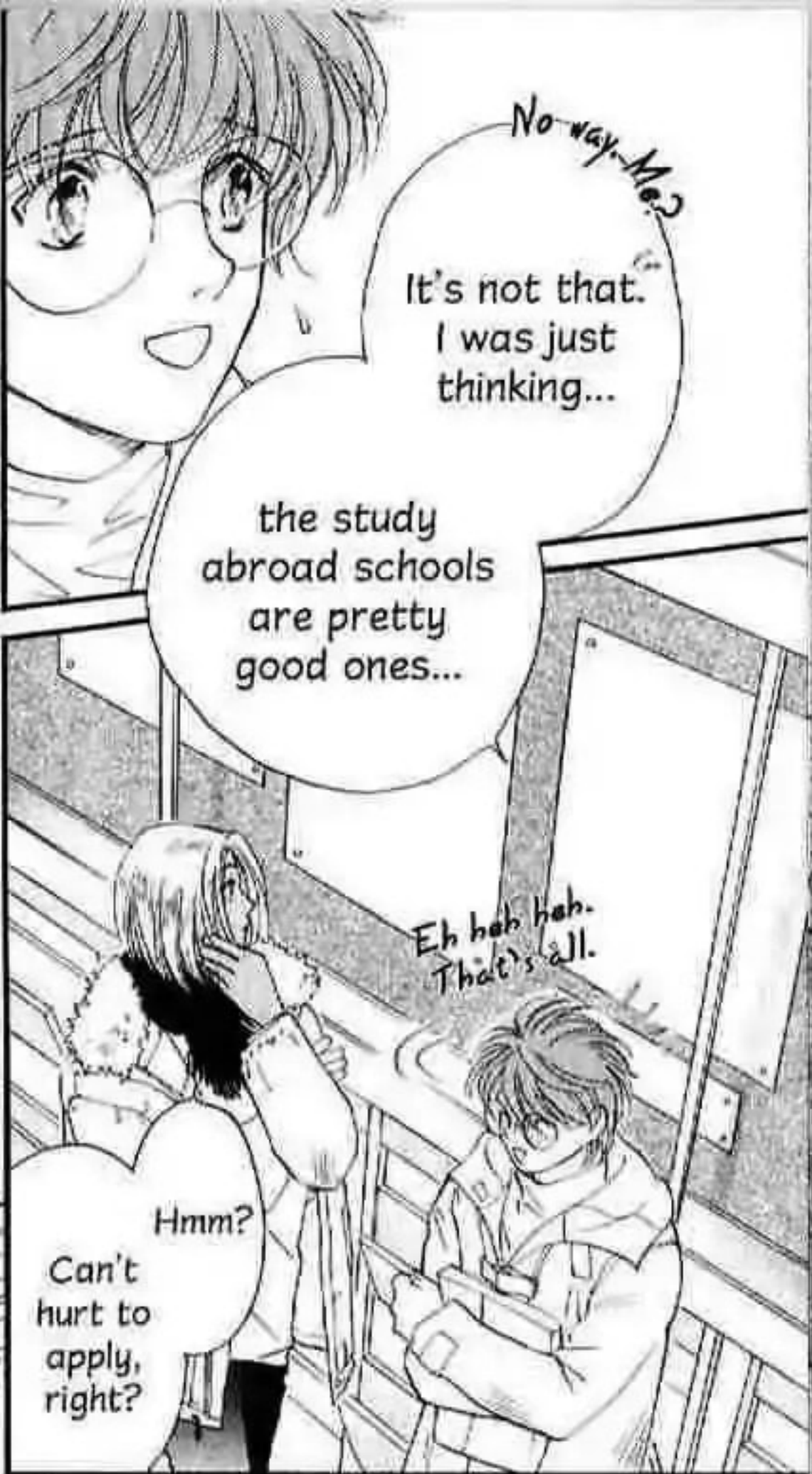
Jeez, what a pain.

All you
have to
do is come
and not
complain!

DRAG Jeez

W
A
H
H
H
H







Um...
Does this mean... you're not mad at me anymore?



Rick!

Aww, too bad, so sad...

Wait, um...

Hey...



Ow!

PINCH



...



I not saying I not angry!

It would just give me good chance to torment you.♡

HEH HEH

X-You scared me

What was that for?!

Ah, Tomoe, you is so much fun to play with!

AH HAH HAH

I... I see...





PUPPY
DOG
EYES

Uh...
That's
not it...!

CRINE

I don't
mean it
like that.

FUJITA-
BAAAAN!

You
don't want
to... sing
with me?

We'll punch
in one that we
all can do!

Don't bother
with that oaf.
Come sing
with us!

Later,
okay!

Right now,
I'm going
to sing with
Kurokawa-
san. ♡

GEH

DISMISS

Ooh, look,
look!

SCREEN







"Oh...
probably.
huh."

"Still..."



"Hey! Won't
that school offer
scholarship or
something?"



Studying
abroad... 00"

"I
suppose."

TRY!
TRY!

"No can hurt
to try
right?♡"



FLAP

W.U. is
all I really
need.

I don't
need to study
abroad.

I haven't
even been at
W.U. a full
year yet.

FLOP

Nir-san
would
say:

I
**FORBID
IT!**

**AMERICA!!
WHAT ARE
YOU EVEN
THINKING?**

...and nix
the whole
thing
right off.

I still
wouldn't
be able
to go...

Even if I
did get a
scholarship...

...

This is just
something
I want,

not
something
I need.



Just
something
I want.

I know
that, but
still...

I'm not happy
to be here.

I am sooo not
happy to be here.

Kurokawa-
san.♡



Where's
your
stop?

uh,
Takada-
no-Baba...

Is it...

too
much to
ask...?





WHAT?!

Wait.

Huh?

I'm
really
sorry!



I'm
actually
seeing
someone...



Oh...

I... I
see...

Ugh.

I feel so bad
about this.

PIERCE
PIERCE



WHAT
?!

No harm
in going out
just once or
twice...



HUH

Well... if you
don't mind, then
I don't either.
A lot of people
do it...

Go out
with two people
simultaneously and
then pick one...
you know...



Still,

I can't blame
him entirely.

This is his fault
for creating
such a messed
up situation.

LEAN

PEEP PIP
PIP PEEPPIP
PIP PIP PEEP
PEEP PEEP
PIP PIP
PEEP

I had a
choice...

Don't
worry!
I'll be
fine!

Hm
...?

PEEP PEEP
PIP PEEP
PIP PIP PIP
PEEP PEEP
PEEP

CHOKE

PEEP PEEP
PEEP

?

SE



There's no
rush. We can
just wait for
a convenient
time...



You can't!
There are no
more trains
tonight...

Should I
drop it off
now?

I find myself

drawing the
attention of
strange females...

How
am I
doing it?

This kind of
thing never used
to happen...



I'm free
this Saturday
Are you?

TEE
HEE!



CHAK



Good.
Then I'll see
you in Shibuya
Saturday,
3 PM. ♡

SNOOZE

I know...

he's not
the jealous
type...

Although,
I'd prefer if
he were just
a little bit.

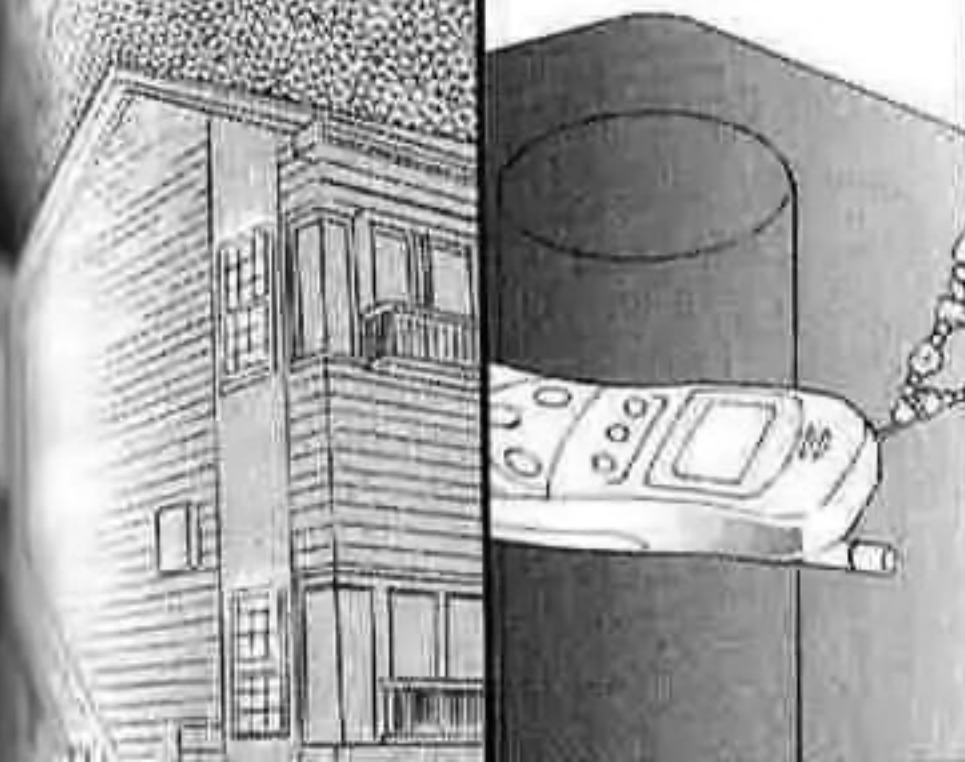


SHUT

I can't
go.

This
just
isn't
right.

...







He turned you down because he already has a girlfriend, right?



He asked Isogai-san, who then asked me.

He didn't ask me.

Why would he ask you?!

I gave Isogai-san my number the other night

Don't tell me you're his—



Isogai-san told me it's so serious that they're living together.

Why not just move on then?

Er...

Maybe...



So.
You should give up.



I highly doubt he'll come to any more singles parties...



WHAAAT ?!

Ah....

Here
it is.

No one who has
a girlfriend that
great comes to
a singles party,
no matter how
he's begged.

I'm not okay
with this.

It's driving
me crazy.

I want
to see his
girlfriend with
my own eyes.

She could
be as
bad as:

Buy me
this.
Buy me
that.
Do the
laundry.
Do the
dishes.
HO HO HO
HO HO HO
HO HO HO
HO HO HO

☆
AHH!!
SHE COULD
BE A
CRUEL
HORRIBLE
WOMAN...

Although,
his dear Tova
has...

Ah, my
sweet...

If that's the
situation, his
heart must have
been seeking
to fill a void.♡

Excuse
me.

Doesn't he
see that I
could fill
that void?

Is
already
a
little
crazy
→





Can I
help you?



I was
just in the
neighbor-
hood.

I'll drop
in some
other—



Wait... what?

WHAT?



If you're
looking for
Kurokawa-san,
he's not back
yet.

But you can
come in and
wait for him
if you'd—

Ah!

No, no,
that's
okay.

And the person
currently living
with Kurokawa-
san...



Yes,
I do.

Say...
um... do
you live
here?



Ah,
yes.

I'm his
roommate.



?

IT
CAN'T
BE!

DASH

It can't
bel

Ah—

Hey!



SOB
SOB
SOB
I never
even
suspected!

NO!
SNIFLE

No. No
way...



"You should
give up."

WAHHH

The
shock
is too
much...
This means
I have no
chance with
him...



WOBBLE

But I
was soooo
into
him...



Uh-huh.

I have no
choice but
to give up.

**HE'S
GAY?
THAT'S
WHAT
IT IS?!**

That boy...
he was
cute in a
genderless
kind of
way...



**GOOD MEN
BELONG WITH
WOMEN!**



It's just
wrong at a
fundamental
level

For a good
man to be
with another
man.

You won't
like it so much
then, will you?!

Kurokawa-san!



Wahhh,
it wasn't
supposed
to be
like this...

KUROKAWA
SAMA!!

But, but! As he
gets older, he
might turn into
a manly man!



I'm
going to
rehabilitate
you.

G
I
N
T



I'LL SHOW
YOU THAT WOMEN
ARE INFINITELY
BETTER FOR MEN!



That's it!
I won't give
up on you!

Rehabilitating
you is the
right thing
to do!

CLENCH

Or maybe
I'm just
determined!

IT'S
MY
DUTY!



A woman?
I can't
imagine
who...

What
women do
I know...?



By
the way,
you had a
visitor
today.

A
visitor!
Who?

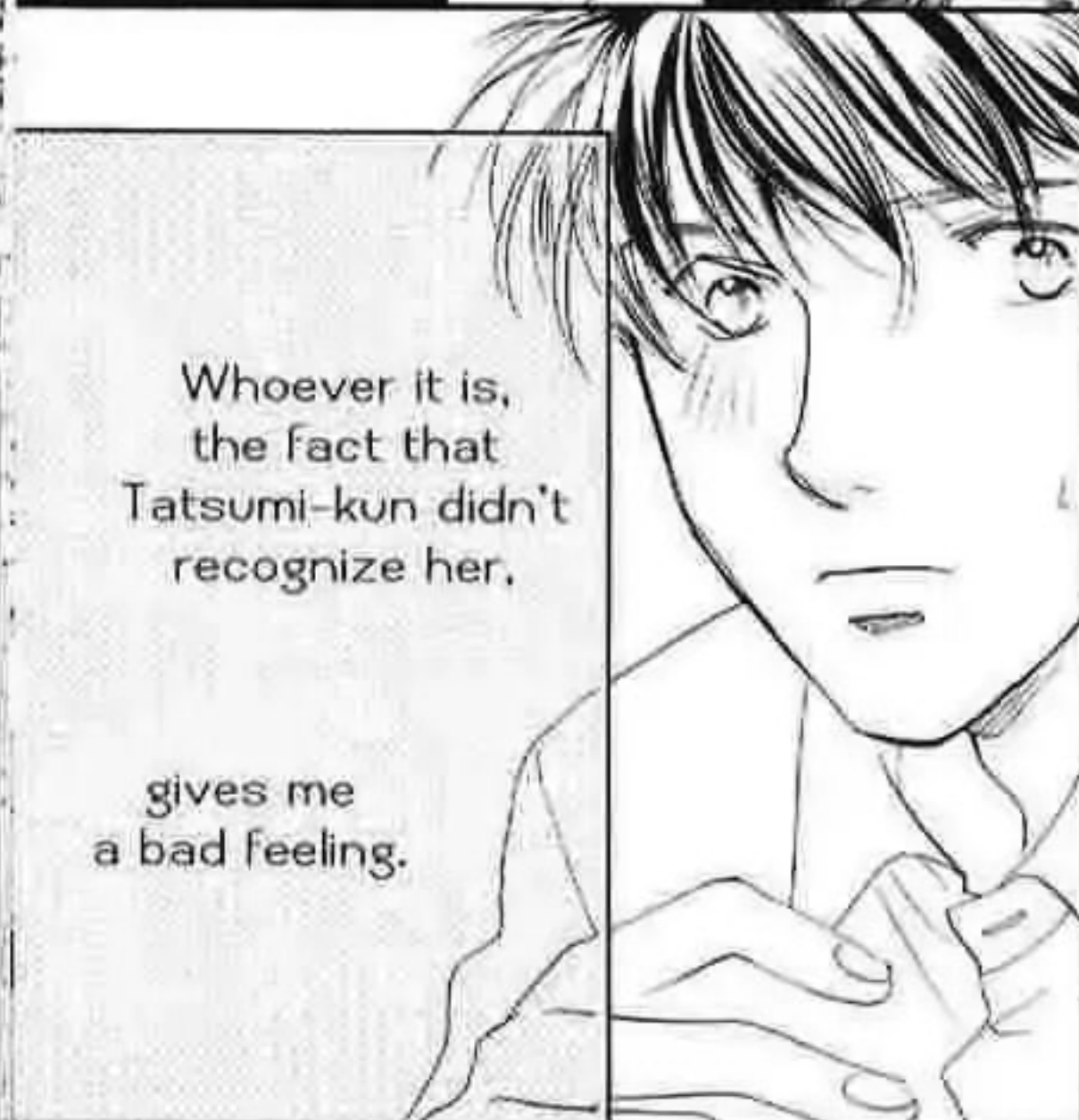
It was a
woman.

I told her
she could come
in and wait, but
she said she'd
just come
back later.



It
couldn't
be...

Oh.
no.



Whoever it is,
the fact that
Tatsumi-kun didn't
recognize her,

gives me
a bad feeling.



It just
couldn't
be.

No... No
matter how
suspicious

Sorry, I
didn't think
to ask for
her name...



He doesn't
suspect
me of any
wrongdoing...



Try to
have your
reports in by
next week.

Class
dismissed.

CLACK

CLACK



Oh, one
more
thing...



Yes,
sir?

Tomoe
Tatsumi!



I'd be
sad
without
him...



SHOCK

Wait, how
did you
know that?!

I haven't
told a
soul!

FLAP

It seems
you've applied
to study
abroad.

Um...
You wanted
to talk to
me...?

Well,
I've been
following your
progress.

Huh...?
Following my...
progress...?

Why would you
do that...?

And your
performance
is excellent
across the
curriculum.

For a
freshman,
you write some
interesting
reports.

The miniature
robot you made
was extremely
well built.

What do you want to be?

An engineer, right?

Why is he asking me

Sir...

Thank you very much...

But what does this have to do with anything...

these questions?

I want to work in a practical field, and

building things that help send people into space—

Y-Yes.

It's almost like... an interview...

GRIZ

Indeed, indeed.

—lets me *see* the effects of my actions...

n't that
dream
engineering
student?!

Boy,
would
I!

Oh,
my gosh,
NASA?!

So you'd
want to work
somewhere
like
NASA!

If I could
make space
shuttles fly with
these hands...!

SPACE:
THE FINAL
FRONTIER

Wow,
that would
be great!
Beyond
great!

Sometimes...
I get carried
away by my
dreams and
ignore reality.

I still
don't want
to give it
up...

It's the same
with studying
abroad. I know
I can't afford
it, but

I'm
a little
embarrassed...

SIGH

...

SIT

S-
Sorry...

HA
HA
HA



Now
for the
important
part...

SMILE



Why?

The truth
is, I'm
retiring
this year.



Indeed,
indeed

The research
there has been
approved, so now
a very large
company will
sponsor it.

Naturally,
this means the
scope of the
research and its
facilities will grow
enormously.

Only, the
project is short
on talented
people.

My friend
has a small
company in
America.

It's an
enterprise
venture.



Congrat-
ulations!

Although,
it's a shame
you have
to quit
teaching.

That's great
news! I'm
so happy
for you!

You seem
to have
missed the
point...

This is how
he's been building
his whole
research team.

My friend
needs
qualified
persons.

So, he's
extending
invitations.

That's so
awesome!

What I was
wondering is, if
you'd like to
come with me.

Huh...?

Because
...

GRIN

You've
captured
my
interest.

I can
appreciate
a young man
with your
ability and
ambition.

You're rather
young right now,
so you'd have to
settle for being
an assistant,
but...

this is still
a fantastic
opportunity
for you.

with lots
of energy
and a little
eccentricity

After that,
NASA won't
be far off.

You can
join a real
group of
engineers.

What
do you
think?



We can
make your
dreams
come true.

Wow,
ujita, you're
pumped for
something.
What's gotten
into you?

DUTY!
REHABILITATION!

I don't
know...
Something's
giving me the
jitters...

What's
the
matter?

Which One
Part 1

END

♥ Part 2 ♥
which One

**YOU'RE
GOING TO
AMERICA?**

Yes,
Kurokawa-
san!

Just saying it
aloud makes
me feel like I'm
dreaming! ♡

CLITTER

CLITTER

CLITTER

CLITTER

The
professor
chose me,
of all
people!

Can this
really be
happening
to me?

"Ah! Is
that
right?"

BUSINESS

"We can make
your dreams
come true!"

"You don't
need to worry
a thing about
money!"

"Because
you're going to
be a working
man!"

That's
incredible!



"Away, to the
Silicon Valley
of our
dreams!"

AIM
FOR
THE
STARS-

WOW~
YOU'RE
MY
HERO

*Around here,
you're the
hero!*

Um...
Tatsumi-
kun...?

Details
aside-

No!
Not yet.

Plans are
on hold
because I
know my
brother will
object.

CLENCH

Are... Are
you saying...
this has
already been
arranged...?

No matter
what my
brother says,
I won't give in!

But such
an incredible
chance comes
just once in
a lifetime.

I object...

Actually,
never mind
your brother.

And I
won't
regret
leaving
school
mid-term!

Right?

You agree
with me,
Kurokawa-san
don't you?



Dreams
come true?
When did all
this start?

Going to
America?

What
is
this?

I can
almost
taste it!
Ahh...♡

I had no
idea he
was even
considering
such a
thing.

No! That's
not the
point. The
point is—

Ahh~ I can't
believe I really
have a chance
to go~

What
the
hell
is
this?

SIGH
♡

G
L
E
E
♡

HE'S SO
MINDLESSLY
HAPPY!

RU
M
BLE

WHY,
TATSUMI-KUN?!

RU
M
BLE

RU
M
BLE

It's not as
though we'll
never see
each other
again...

Come on,
Kurokawa-
san...

You're
not
in the
least
bit
sorry!

Although...

HEH
HEH
HEH

Does the
thought of
living without
me not
bother you
at all?!

Although...?

NOOO,
HOW CAN
YOU SAY
THAT...?!

TEE
HEE



I'm
going
because
I can't
stand
you!

I honestly
wouldn't care
if I never saw
you again!

B
A
M

YOU'RE
SO
CRUEL!

SOB
SOB

He
may as
well
have
...

But
...

TWEE
TWEE

HUFA
HUFA

Uh...
A dream



No... seems
he hasn't
made a final
decision yet.

CLACK

floo

AMERICA?!

Reference Room

Is it for
certain?

That's
out of left
field...



Isn't it?
Isn't it?!

Th... That's
great. Congrat-
ulations. What
an opportunity
...



Sucks to
be you...

Heh...

SOR
SOR
SOR

Doesn't
he love
me...?

He's
forgetting
someone
...

It wouldn't
be so bad
if he just
wasn't so
ignorantly
happy...

So I admit
this is
a good
chance
for him...

Tatsumi-kun's
dreams are
very important
to him.

I've known
that since
the moment
we met...

But,
still...

I
expected,
well,
this!

Some
kind of
confirmation
of love!

It
should be
... something
like that
at least!

Like that's a
concert
Broadway
is waiting
for you.
Don't you
realize?

I love
you. If it
means being
apart, then
I can't...

LA
LA
LA
LA~

HA HA

If you're
not careful,
Tatsumi-kun
could be
influenced to
leave you
entirely.

Well, it was
Tatsumi-kun's
susceptibility to
influence that
brought you
together in the
first place.

Screaming
that you
don't like it
doesn't
make it
untrue!

The suggestion alone
hurts! It hurts!

WAHHH,
IT'S NOT
TRUE!

DON'T LIE
TO ME!

Maybe if
I just leave
it alone,
it'll blow
over like
a bad joke.

The
truth
is—

I don't
know
what the
truth is.

CHI-KAK

Because
he still
hasn't
realized.

Huh?

HA
HA
HA
HA

HEE
HEE
HEE







just as I
thought.

I don't
want
you to
feel bad,
but...

it creates
a problem
for me.

Mm-hmm

GLITTER
GLITTER

Listen...
I know
how
shameless
this
sounds
...

H/mmm

HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH

HE'S WEAK
FOR THE
SWEET,
NAÏVE TYPE

So,
couldn't I
just visit
once in a
while?

Excuse
me?!

I don't want
to complicate
things between
you and your
girlfriend.

I'm okay
just being
friends...

We
don't have
to date



So
single-
minded
...

I'll call
you!



Hmm.

I guess
we can
leave it
at that.

Heh
Heh

Naughty,
naughty...
Cheating...
and with a
woman...

RICK!

I just
gived
homoe
private
English
leson.

I thought
it was clear
I don't want
you in my
home!

Never
mind me,
what are
you doing
here?

There's
nothing going
on between
me and that
woman!

Don't
misconstrue
the
situation!



Just so happens, I
going back
to America
soon, too.

Good
timing.
♡

Easiest
to learn
through
practice,
right?

Since he
going to
America
and all...

Wh—

WHAT?!

No worry.
I take
good care
of Tomoe
for you...

Hey,
wait a—

The woman
who came
over, she's
the one I told
you about.



Should I
not have
invited
her in...?

She said
she wanted
to talk to you
about work.

Ah...
okay.

I knew
it...









Am I the
only one...
who would
feel lonely?

I'm not
telling you
not to go.
It's just...



Uh...



...Ah.



His
reaction...
says it
all...



I'm gonna
crawl
into bed.

There's
nothing he
can say
that won't
sound like
an excuse.

I feel
silly for
asking.



Sorry, I
didn't mean
anything
by that.

Don't
give it any
serious
thought...

Um,

I...



....!

I
couldn't
be
surprised
...



Good
night...

Um—

Kurokawa-
san—

S
H
U
T

OPEN

Oh,
well...

Once
Tatsumi-
kun sets
his mind
on some-
thing,
usually,
that's
that...

Kuro-
kawa-
san

For the
25th
time...

There *is*
a way to
solve the
problem.

SIGH

Simple.

Just go
with him to
America.

How?





To
put it
simply—

Wh-What
are you
even
talking
about?!

All of a sudden,
there are
suitability
requirements for
homosexuality?!

I don't
know
guys.
I know
you.

And
how
would
you
know?

**YOU'RE
NOT FIT TO
BE GAY.**



You're
a man of
reason,
correct?

H-Hey,
now...

and
start over
from scratch
in an alien
culture?

A faint-
hearted,
common man
who values
comfort and
security.

Could you
honestly quit
your job, throw
everything
away,

Think how difficult it's been just living *here* with Tatsumi-kun.

You'd just come crawling back home with an ulcer the size of a Twinkie.

You haven't achieved the life of puppies and rainbows you've longed for, have you?

WHIA

The way of the homo is cruel and beastly!

It's a burden too great for you to bear!

Um?

Isogai ...

GAY EXPERT



I think others can hear you...

I don't care, but I thought you'd like to know...

I never knew homosexual philosophy existed, but it makes sense

WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER



"I'm not saying you have to date Fujita-san, but"

"It's an option to consider."

Hmm.

You used to be straight, after all

I don't know...



Long-time friends really take the quality of mercy for granted.

And cut to the quick

And if I had to move to America, I'd manage somehow.

The one thing I can't reconcile is—

I could handle quitting my job...

Took a blow (head on).



I don't
understand
the meaning of
Tatsumi-kun's
disregard
for me.

I can't
tell if
Tatsumi-
kun

actually wants
to be with me,
is merely *glad* to
be with me, or
just *doesn't mind*
being with me.



They sound
the same,
but they're
completely
different.

I can't
make a
move until
I know
which it is.



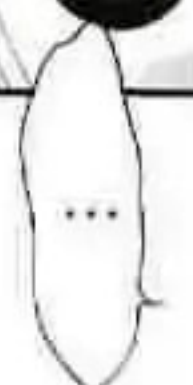
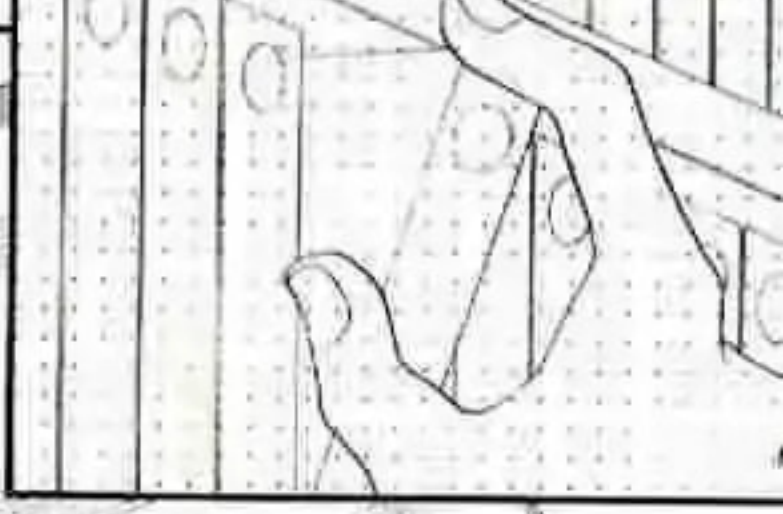
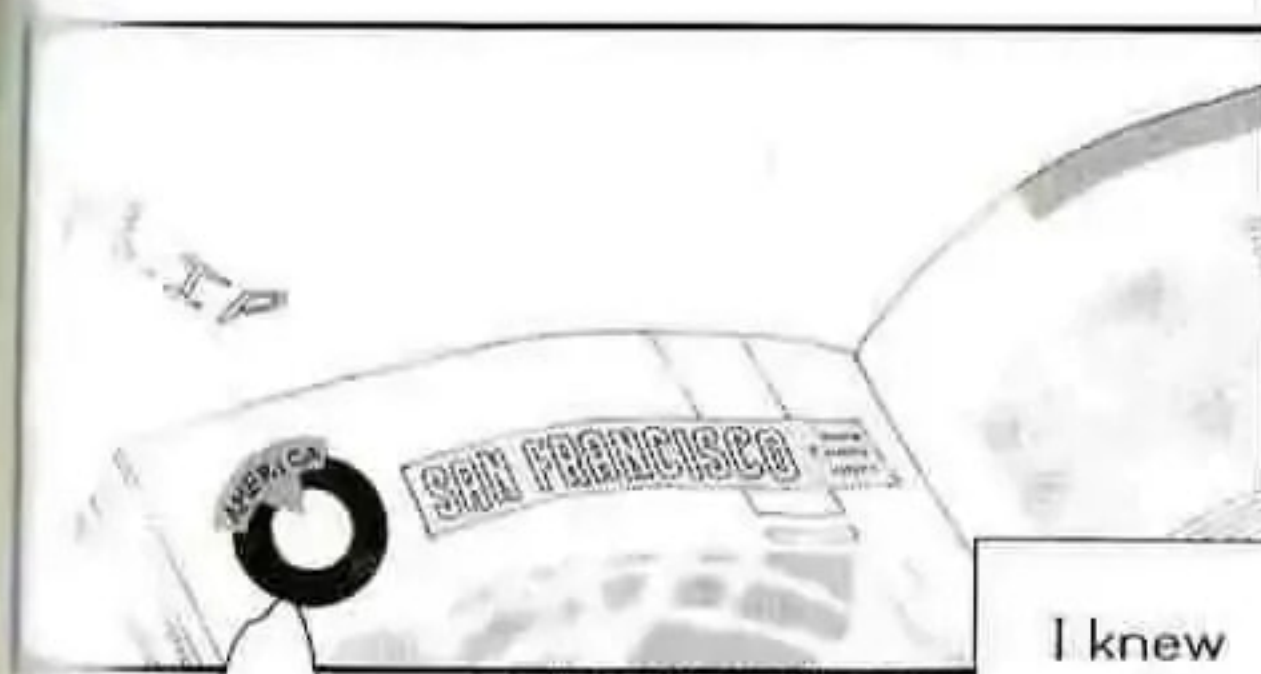
Which is
really to say...
I have zero
self-confi-
dence.

SIGH

I'm
pa-
the-
tic
...

SLUMP





FLAP FLAP



I knew
this
already,
but

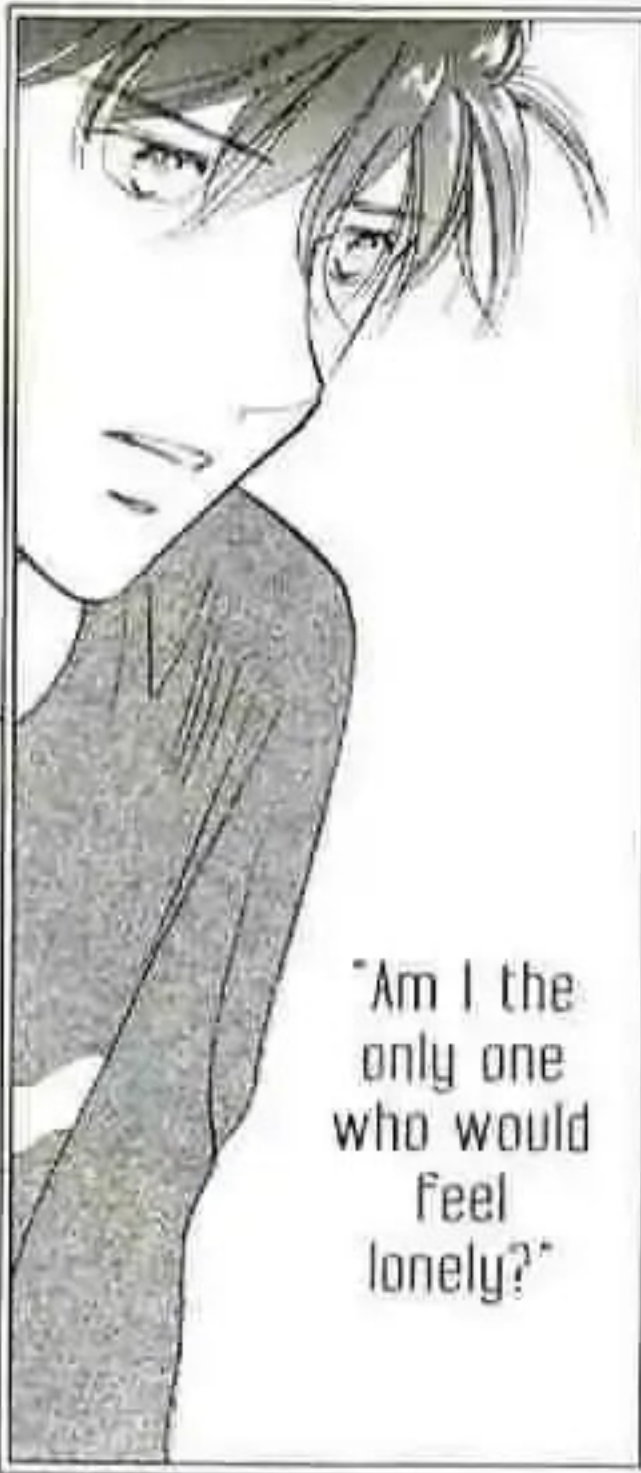
America
is very far
away.

I got carried
away by
the idea.

rushed in
like an idiot,

Feeling nothing
but joy.

Why didn't
I realize...?



"Am I the
only one
who would
feel
lonely?"



I didn't realize I'd have to trade this life for it.





Yeah...

That's
so cool!

So that's
why you were
practicing
English with your
friend, right?

Ah,
okay!

To
America
?!

So when
are you
leaving?



I haven't
really
sorted
out the
details
yet...

He's
leaving for
America?



Can it
be
true?

Can I
really be
this lucky?

Tatsumi-
kun, isn't
there...

anyone
special you'd
be leaving
behind?

Uh—



If they're
going to
separate on
their own...



That
makes it
tough.

But you're
going to
go, huh!



Um...
well...

Ah!
There is
someone.

INNOCENT



I couldn't
ask for
more than
this!

I...
guess
...

Except
that he
leaves
today~♡



Because...
it would
be tough.

You said
so yourself,
Fujita-san,
didn't you...?



**WHAT?
WHY?!**

But the
thing is,
I'm having
second
thoughts...



I said too much...

because in my case- it's more important to have a man than to have a job...

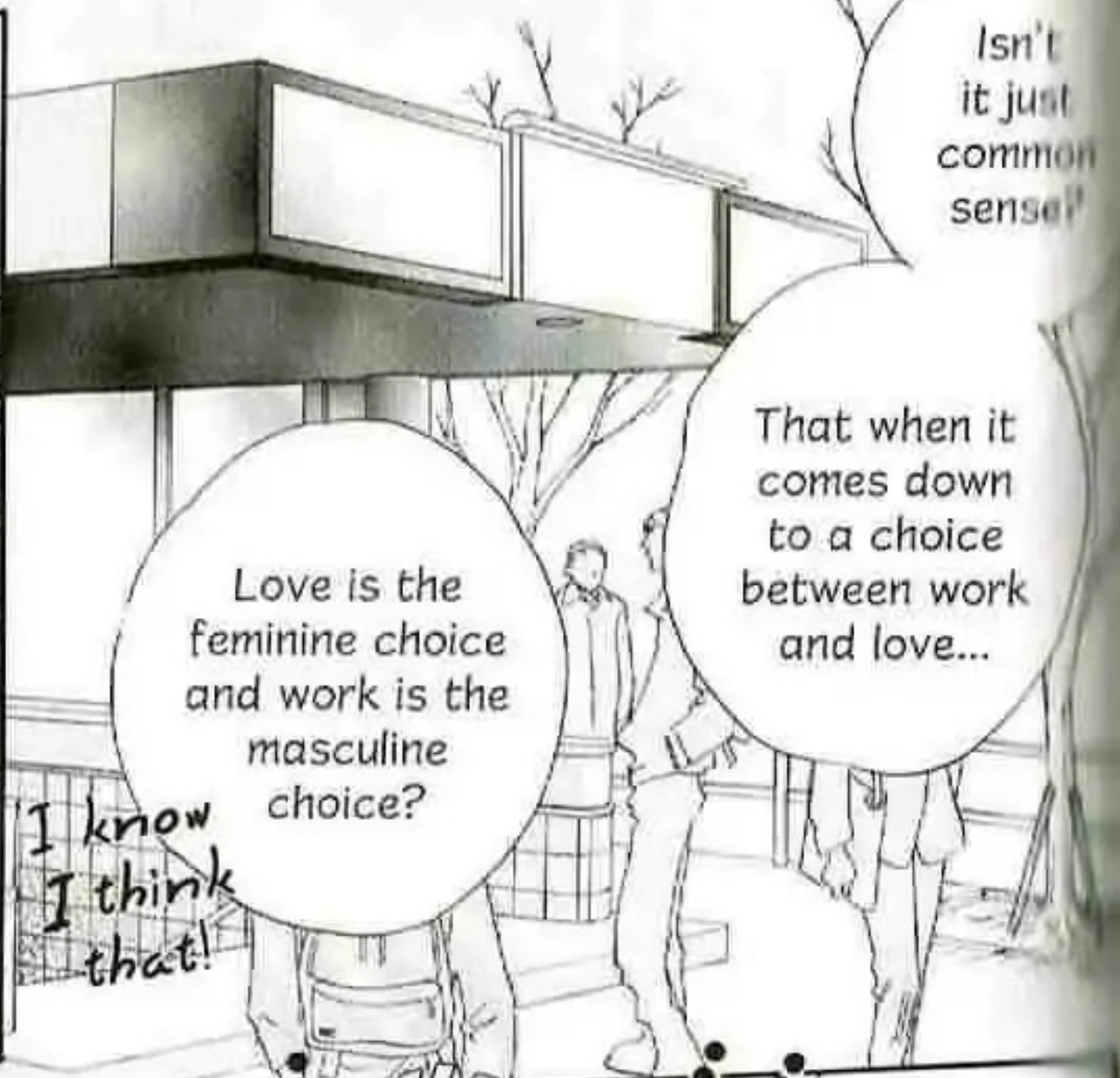
Actually it would be tough for me



Hmm...

You think so?

I suppose that sounds right.



Isn't it just common sense?

That when it comes down to a choice between work and love...

Love is the feminine choice and work is the masculine choice?

I know I think that!



Your girlfriend is sure to understand!

Don't you think?

Doh, you're so manly!



WHACK WHACK

I do! A man must always put his work first!

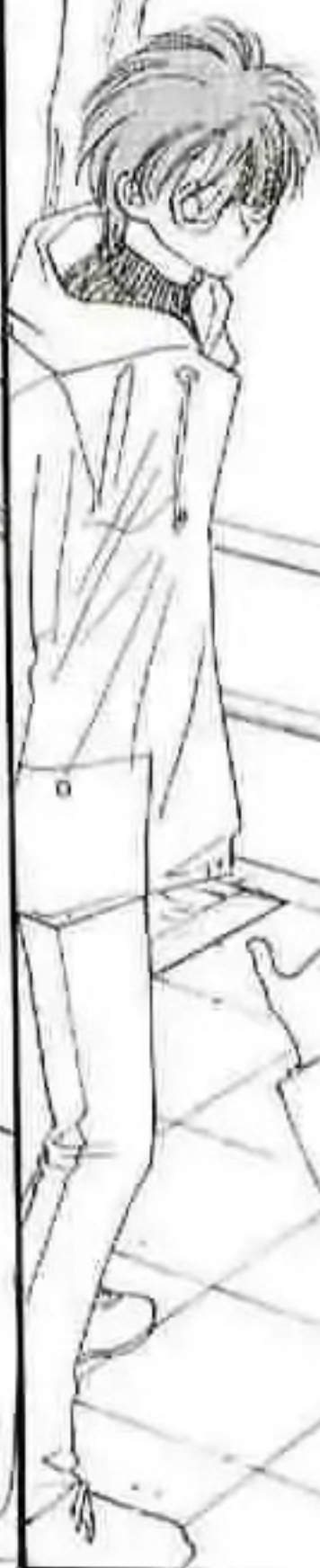
It
seems

I won't
have
to do
anything
drastic...



° ° °

I was
right,
wasn't I?



Anyway,

I have
to get
going
now...



to get
everything
to go
my way.

The wind
is blowing
in my
favor.

**I CAN
DO
THIS!**





I know
your
weakness!

I HAVE THE
ADVANTAGE!



♥ Part 3 ♥

Which One



Kurokawa-san...

What sooo important?

OK?

Listen, ne?
(OK?)

The fact you forgot him means he not really important to you!

CHIKUSHO!
(Goddammit!)

AA, MOU, TOMORI
(Oh, not)

What you talking about?

Th...That's not true!

IT JUST means I was being an IDIOT!

I want him
to understand
that I messed
up, but at the
same time,
I don't want
to give up
studying
abroad.

That's
not what
it means
at all.

but
that must've
been how
Kurokawa-san
interpreted
it, too.

LIBRARY

So, how
come...

you not
noticed
anything,
Tomoe?

Huh?

Notice
what?

Way
Ooya-san
been
lately...

That not
what I
mean...

you
humbest
smart
person I
know...

Hm...

I was too
happy about
my plans to
realize he
was sad...



For
example...
that
woman.

What
I mean
is—

Hm?



Has you
stopped
to think,
maybe,

who
she is to
Ooya-
san?

Is this cake
delicious or
what~?

So? Was
I right?



The chef
studied at
a famous
French
school~♡

TEE
HEE

It is,
isn't it?!♡

It's really
good...

The bakery
just opened
near my
place.

G
RR
RR

W-Wow...
that's cool.



This is
bad, this
is bad!

I can't
keep
telling this
happen!

ON AND
ON AND
ON

HUFF
HUFF

Now that
I think
about it.

Fujita-san
has been
coming over
a lot lately.

MUNCH



I don't
understand why
she's so
hung up on me.

Even
Tatsumi-
kun will
start to
notice that
something's
off

I told her not
to come here
anymore, so why
won't she quit?

Why is
this even a
problem?

Oh,
goodness~
There's still
plenty of
time~♡

So sweet of
you to worry

Fujita-san,
shouldn't you
get going
before the
last train
leaves...?

I have
a much
bigger
problem...!

I shouldn't
have to worry
about this
right now





God.

SIGH

I'm not
being
firm with
her...

because
now I'm on
the fence
about her.



Ah,
Tatsumi-
kun!

What good
timing! ♡



Oh.
Good
evening
...

I decided
to stop by
again! ♡



I don't
want
to be
alone...

I guess
I'll just
go home
then...

He said
he'd be
home late
today...

Where's
Kurokawa-
san?

SIGH

Oh...
I see...

I brought
a little
something...

Sigh~

"Has you
stopped
to think,
maybe."

...

who she is
in Itoya-san?"

GAS

You understand!

PAT

Oh! That's not to say I don't like hanging out with you, Tomoe-kun!

It's just that this cake is more to Kurokawa-san's taste!

SLIDE

Give it to him for me? 'Kay thank!



I wonder if Fujita-san...

...is in
love with
Kurokawa-
san...



Hyde?
You're
still up?



Hm?

Is
that
...

I didn't
realize it
was this late
already...

I was
so out
of it.



I wonder,
Kurokawa-
san...



Was
Fujita
here again?



Ah, yes.
She
brought
that for
you to
try.

Ha,
ha
...

What
a pain
in
the...

?



...?

What
is it?

Did
something
happen
...?



I
wonder,

how you
feel about
her...



Why
does
Fujita-
san...

come
here
every
d-



Huh?

What?

N-

What
do you
mean?

Nothing
...



What the heck
was that?!

He was
jealous
just now,
wasn't he
?!

Wait.
this is
no time
to get
excited.

Knowing
Tatsumi-kun,
it may have
just been
a simple
question.

SLA₃

Good
night!

Wait!

Oh, no... I
overanalyzed
the situation

and asked
something
inappropriate...

I CAN'T
IGNORE THIS
ANYMORE.

B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP

Ahh
and yet
I feel so
wicked!

Calm
down. You
have no
reason to
feel
guilty...

NOT
GOOD.

THIS IS VERY
NOT GOOD.



Fujita-
san...

**THIS TIME,
I'M GOING TO
TELL HER SHE'S
A NUISANCE!**

**I'LL TELL
HER MYSELF
THAT THERE'S
NOTHING
BETWEEN US!**

There's nothing sudden about it.

Why are you suddenly acting like this...?!

I told you this from the start... Now, I've given it a lot of thought, and...

I just don't have special feelings for you.

I heard the message you left.

Then you know I don't want you coming here anymore.

Although, I knew that wouldn't be enough to discourage you.

If you want to discuss it, let's appoint another day and time...

You can't mean that.

NEED

I'm sorry, but—

This— is exactly what's kept it dragging on and on...

Don't fall for it.

UHF

What's
so special
about
that boy?

I really
don't want
you coming
by any
more.

Why?

Why
can't I?

Why
not
...?

That should
mean you'd
be single...

Isn't he
leaving you
for America
soon?

HUH?

**YES, I'VE
KNOWN FOR
A LONG
TIME!**

How?
How long
have you
known?

Y-You
knew that
we're...

**AND I DON'T
APPROVE OF
GOOD MEN
BEING GAY!**

What's so
great about
homosexuality?

What's even
the difference?
Tatsumi-kun
is practically
a girl!

He just has
no breasts!

**PIERCING
TRUTH**
TOYER

And the fact
that he's not at
all suspicious of
me means he's
either incredibly
stupid or just
doesn't care!

If... If you
knew, then
why didn't you
just give up?!

OH, I KNOW WHAT
THE PROBLEM IS!

You just
haven't had sex
with a woman
in a long time,
have you?!

I know that's
what it is!

I won't be
brushed off
just because
I'm female!

Men belong
with women,
don't they?
Why don't
you get it?

It's
true,
but
let's
not go
there.

H-Hey,
now.

?

!

R
A
B

SURPRISE
ATTACK



Our lips
are soft,
and
they're
not the
only
things!

See?
Women
are better
for you!



L...Listen,
you...
That's not
the issue...

GOD, I CAN'T
TAKE THIS
anymore!

I ALWAYS,

ALWAYS

Lucky
for
me

GET
SET
UP

LIKE

THIS
!

WAHHH!

TATSUMI-

KUUUN!

ASH



Wait!
Remember,
he's going
to America!



DO
YOU?!

You want
to be with
someone
that
unfeeling?

He's
going and
leaving
you here.



✖
Note:
Kurokawa-san

P'CH

Sound of something snapping. →

-up.



**i SAID,
SHUT THE
HELL UP,
YOU
CONNIVING
BITCH-SLUT!**



but that
doesn't
make him
unfeeling!

I'd be
lonely
without
him,

B-
Bitch-
shit?!

It's Tatsumi-
kun's dream
to go to
America!

That's
right...

I love
Tatsumi-kun,
and...

I forgot.
All I've
wanted is
to be
accepted.

being
accepted
in his life
is already
more than
I could
ask for.

It changes
nothing
to measure
the weight
of his
feelings.

...
I don't
get it.

That's
why there's
Welfare!

You...
you can't
live a full life
as a gay,
can you?

You can't
have children.
When you get
old, there'll be
no one to
care for you!

I won't
need your
sympathy.

I love him
enough that
it doesn't
matter.
Besides...

**DON'T
BOTHER!**

But I'm
trying to
rehabilitate
you...!

SLAM!

GET A
PROBLEM
WITH
THAT
!!

DMP
DMP

I'M GAY
FOR THE
LONG
HAUL!



DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP

Wait,
please!
It's not
at all
what it
looks
like!

Tatsumi-
kuun!

ALONE



**THERE'S
NO
SHAME**

**IN BEING
DUMPED
BY A GAY
GUY!**



At
...
At
least
...



He's not
anywhere

...
I'm back
where I
started.

Wait,
that's
...



**YOU'RE
JUST
DUMB!**



Listen,
what you
saw was
Fujita-san
forcing
herself on
me...

*It really
wasn't what it
looked like.*

Here you
are. You
didn't go
far at all.

BLUSH

Yeah
...

I know.

!

I could
hear you
two yelling
from
here...

GASP

What?
Did.
You.
Say?

Huh?

The whole neighborhood heard.

EMBARRASSED

Kurokawa-san...

Ahh...
the whole
neighborhood
knows...

Ah...
I see.

In that
case...
you
already
know...

What?

I...

am
thinking
of not
going to
America.

The
other
day...

Has
something
happened?

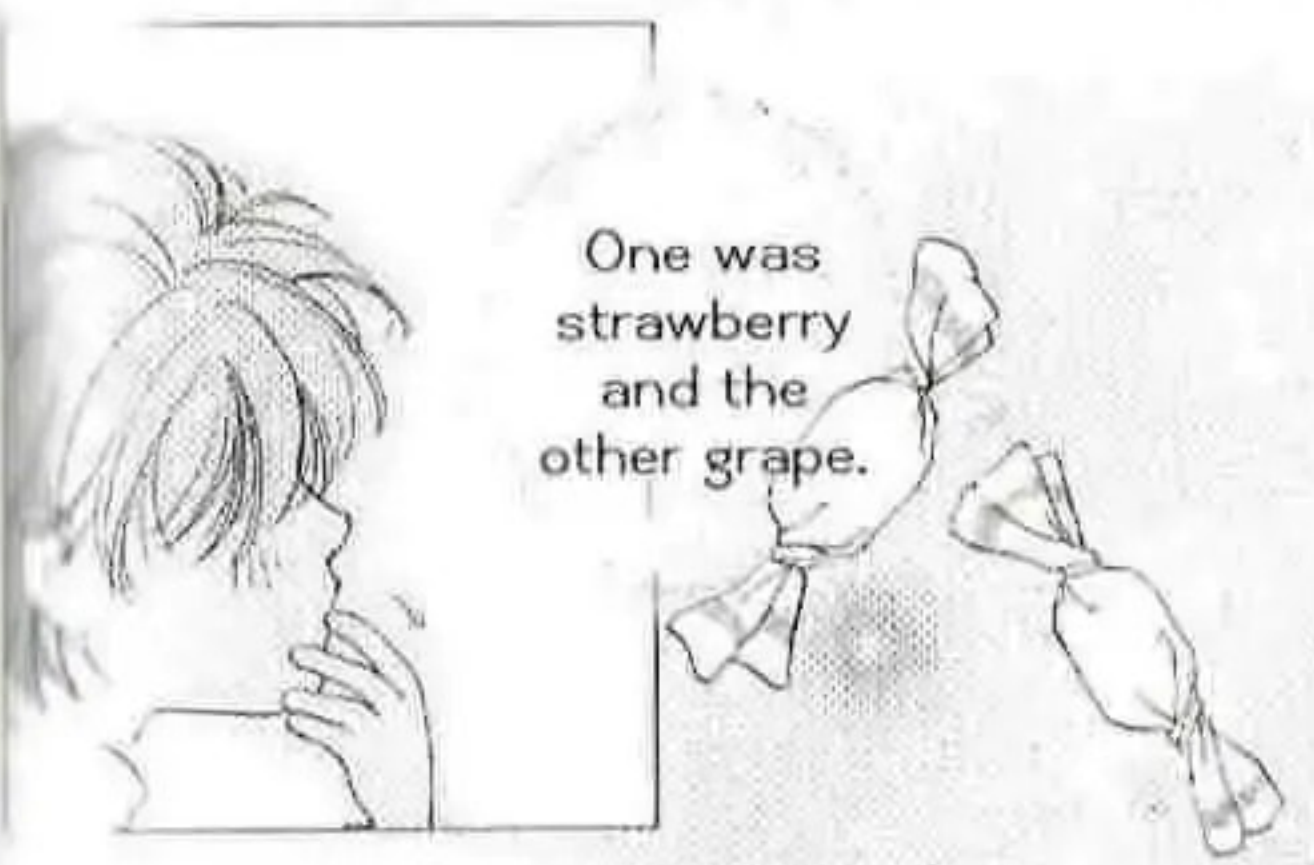


"Which one
do you want?"

My mother held
out two candies
and asked me.

I had a
dream that
I was a
little boy...

A
dream?



One was
strawberry
and the
other grape.

I
liked both
so much.
I couldn't
choose.

That
was it.

And
then...?

I just
threw a
tantrum
at my
poor
mother.



But then
you would
still be here,
missing me.



But it
made me
think—I
haven't
changed
much since
I was a
child...



At first,
I was ready
to drop
everything
to go to
America.

"Think
of your
career!"
♥

But that
was silly to
think... because
surely you'd...
connect... with
s-someone
else...

So then
that made
it hard to
choose
again...

Tatsumi
kan

HO
HO
HO
HO
HO



I would never forget you, Tatsumi-kun...

But I could be gone for years.

W... Well...

There could be someone else like Fujita-san... or many more someones, even more appealing than her.

You seem to be popular, Kurokawa-san.

So not true, but such a rare compliment that he'll take it. ♡

BLUSH
B-DMP
B-DMP
B-DMP

Try to overlook it...

I'm so sorry...

The way I feel, knowing you have so many options, must have been the way you felt... maybe...

when I was so happy about going to America by myself.

Huh?

It...
It's okay,
Tatsumi-
kun.

You don't
have to
choose.

I'm going
to leave
my job and
Japan!

*And my
boring, stable
lifestyle!*

I've
decided!

BAM



Now, I just
need to force
my apartment
on my mom
or Isogai.

I've been
thinking
about this
for a long
time.

I just
needed to
know how
you felt,
Tatsumi-
kun.



I was a
little lost
myself...

But now—
I know what
the right thing
to do is.



I'll
go with
you to
America,

if
that's
all right
with
you?





I will
give you
everything
you want.

There's
nothing
to be
sorry for.

It's
what I
want
to do.

I'm so
sorry.

I'm so
sorry.

Because that's
what I want—

All that which
is within my
power to give,
I will give you.



SLIDE

Um,
Kurokawa-
san?

Did you
already
submit
your resig-
nation...?

However,
the next
day...

Thank you,
Kurokawa-
san...

Oh, that?
Sure did.
There's just
ten days left
in my notice
period.

but we
can leave
any time
after
that.

I've already
started
packing.

I even got
passport~

Um
...

about
that...

What the hell!
Why is it
winter right
now?! Must I
feel a chill in
both my heart
and body?!

And the
bus is late!

SCREECH

that our
prospective
date of
departure is...

**A YEAR
FROM
NOW...**

which
is further
off than I
expected
...

It seems...
upon more
formal
discussion
with the
professor...



Wow,
man.

Ku-ro-ka-wa-san.

SILENCE

Oh!

OUCH



Would you like fries with that?



So, you're working in sales these days...

Scary the times we live in.

When such are the only companies hiring midway through the year...

LAY OFF!

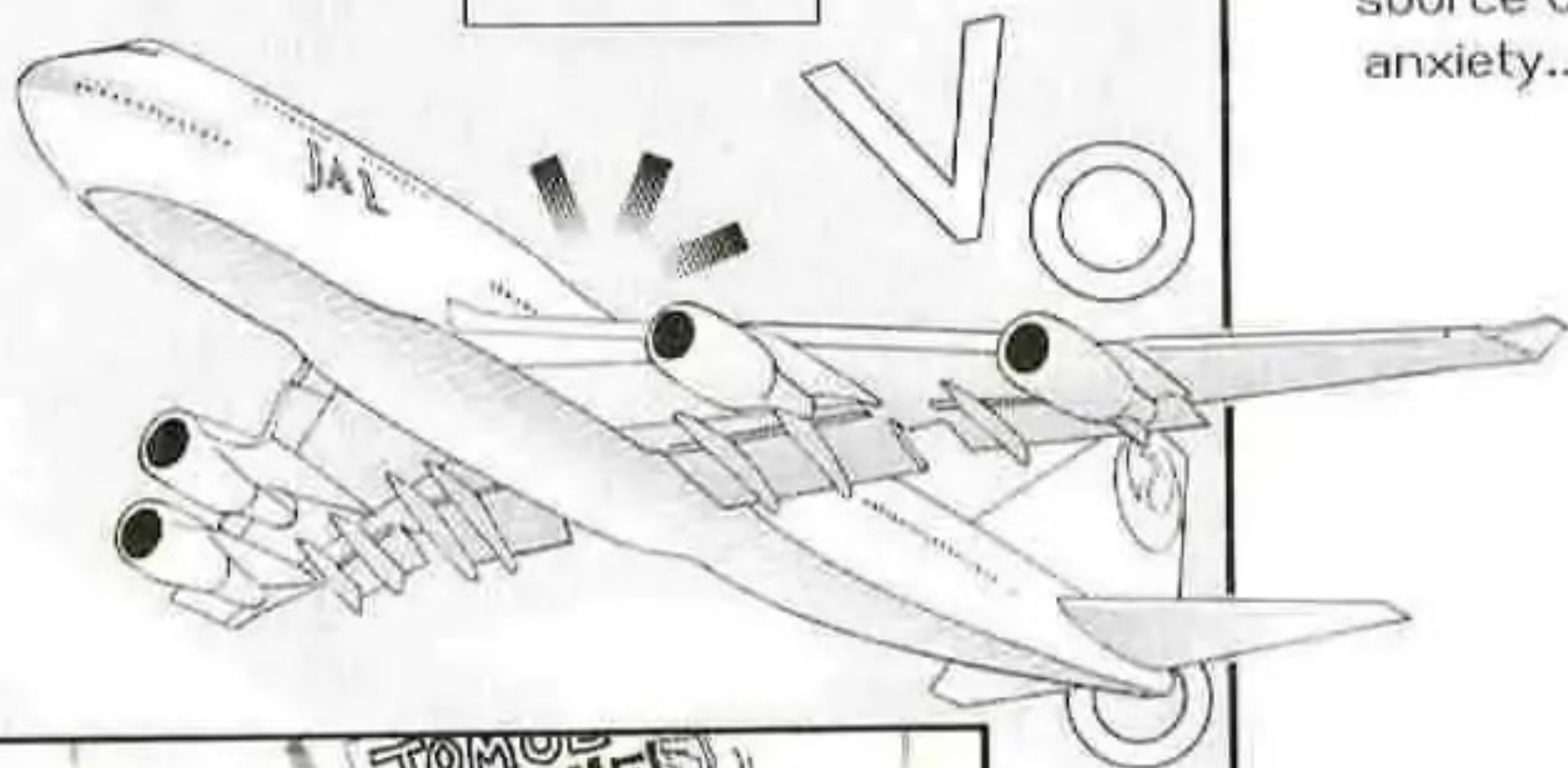
Apart from that...

I should at least smile back, then.

It's still service with a smile.

And, one
year later,
our two
made it
safely to
America.

The relatives
were an
ongoing
source of
anxiety...



Tomoeeee!
Over here,
over here~!
♡

M

Oh, my,
is that
all?

Hey!



Tomo
...
eh?





AH,
RICK!
♡



Heh,
heh, heh,
SUCKER.

Kurohata-san
is here,
fool!

WAVE WAVE WAVE

YAY YAY YAY

SNAP

That's
why I keep
telling you
to give
up...

Love-Love
Level
registering
at 120%...
HUH.

but there's no
question that
theirs will be a
happy ending.♡

There will
certainly be
more problems
along the way.

AMERICA, ARE YOU
on top of everything
ELSE?!

What MADNESS
are you
SPEAKING
?!

WHAT.
IS. THE.
MAT-TER.
WITH.
YOOOU?!

When
I first
told him
I was
leaving
for
America.

it seemed
there would
be no end
to Nii-san's
excitement.

AE
II
II
!

However,
today
...

Epilogue for Everyone

What?

Might not
be such a
bad idea.

America,
huh...

For one
thing, it would
place you far,
far away from
Kurokawa and
Rick.

I've given
it a lot
of thought.

!

You
would be in
the care of a
trustworthy
professor.

the terms
don't
displease
me...

I know this
professor's
reputation

Who
knows what
dangers lurk
on foreign
soil, but...

the down side
is I can't
really keep
it in you.

R...
right...

When
we spoke
before,

I hadn't
intentionally
omitted
those
details.

However,
having finally
won his
approval...

I felt it
wise to
say no
more. ♡

Tatsumi-kun
has
learned
to **lie!**

Stealth
Skill
Lvl.
+1

.....



I get to be
in charge
until you
guys come
back?

Works
for me.

You wanna
rent this
place out
to me?

Taking
management
fees into
account.

Only one
condition.
My rent is
\$300.

HUH?!

And I
finally bought
the place, so
I'd hate
to sell

You're
a life
saver.

Uh-huh.

It would
bother me
to rent it out
to a total
stranger...

That's
low!
Too
low!

You...! How
can you take
advantage of
me like this?!

Hm.
Fine, I'll go
as high as
\$350.

That's...
too...
little!

I'm still
paying off
the loan for
this place...!

This is a
two-bedroom
in a major
metropolitan
area!



I'm livin' here now,
500 BUCKS
rent.

Huh?

Kurokawa?
As far as I know,
he went with
Tatsumi-kun
to America.

Thinking that it
couldn't be, he
came to check.

....!

He should
be payin' me

SCRITCH

Here I am,
doin' the guy
a favor, and
he tries to
rip me off.

It's
stuck in
Tatsumi's
head!

SLUMP

PQT

Huh?
Souichi-kun,
they didn't
tell you?

I see... This
must be a real
blow, then.

Oh, well.
How about a
hot drink?

And
those
were
the
details.

Episode for
Everyone

END

チレンジャー

CHALLENGERS SPECIAL EDITION
PRESENTED BY HINAKO TAKANAGA
高永ハナコ





SPECIAL EDITION

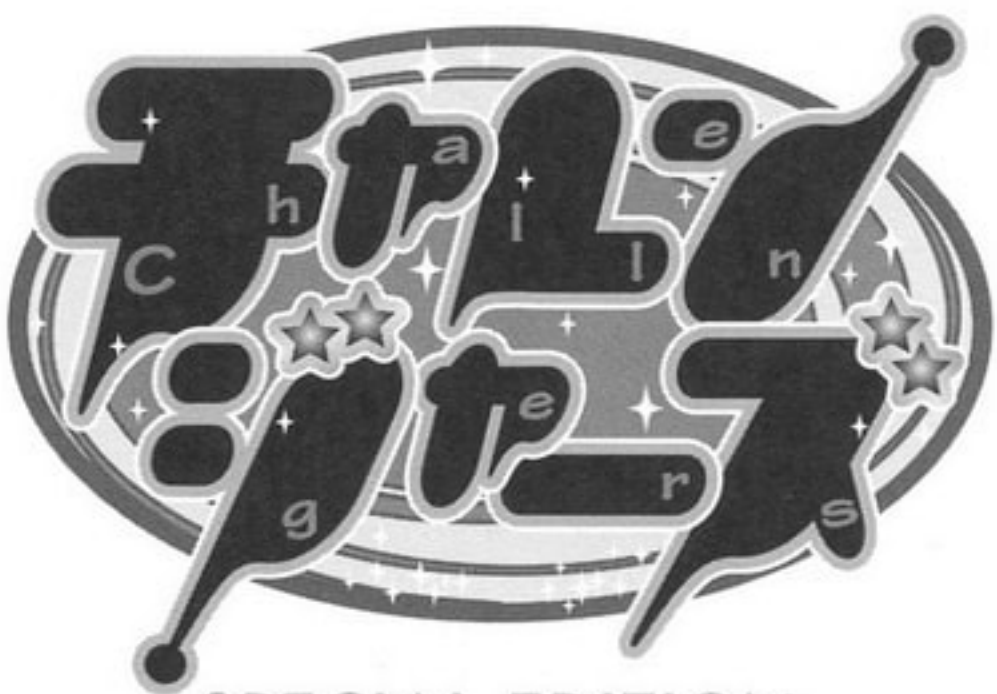
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CHARACTER PROFILE

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MEMORIES OF
ONE SUMMER

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INTERVIEW

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FREE TALK



SPECIAL EDITION

高永門部

CHALLENGERS SPECIAL EDITION ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ PRESENTED BY HINAKO TAKANAGA

CHARACTER PROFILE

■NAME■

TATSUMI TOMOE

■OCCUPATION■

W UNIVERSITY
ENGINEERING STUDENT

■BIRTHDAY■

...3/8 (PISCES)

■BLOOD TYPE■

TYPE O

■HEIGHT-WEIGHT■

H 165cm W 49kg

■LIKES■

READING, STUDYING, ESPECIALLY MATH AND PHYSICS. I LIKE ELECTRICAL THINGS. BECAUSE IT'S A LOT OF THINGS THAT USE MY HEAD, IT MAKES ME CRAVE SWEET THINGS. BUT I'LL EAT ANYTHING. IF IT'S GOOD I'LL EAT IT.

■DISLIKES■

UMM... NOTHING COMES TO MIND...

■FAVORITE TYPE OF PERSON■

HONEST PEOPLE. I LIKE PEOPLE WHO TRY HARD.

■LEAST FAVORITE TYPE OF PERSON■

PEOPLE WHO LIE. BECAUSE I AM FOOLED EASILY.

■CHARACTER MESSAGE FROM THE WRITER■

HE'S A PERSON WHO'S EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS REMARKABLY SLOW, BUT I AM GLAD HE IS SAFELY WITH KUROKAWA-SAN. HE'S PROBABLY THE TYPE WHO'S LOVE SLOWLY DEEPENS OVER TIME. ALSO, HE'S THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO CAN'T BE HAPPY UNLESS THEY DO WHAT THEY WANT TO DO. AGAIN, HIS SURROUNDINGS HELP HIS PERSONALITY. I'M JEALOUS! PLEASE CONTINUE LIKE THAT.



■NAME■

KUROKAWA MITSUGU

■OCCUPATION■

SALARY MAN

■BIRTHDAY■

...5/10 (TAURUS)

■BLOOD TYPE■

TYPE A

■HEIGHT-WEIGHT■

H 176cm W 60kg

■LIKES■

PEACE. PEACE IS THE BEST... AS FOR FOOD, I GUESS JAPANESE FOOD.

■DISLIKES■

THINGS THAT WOULD DISTURB MY LIFE. I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY FOOD I DON'T LIKE. I DON'T REALLY LIKE LOUD NOISES.

■FAVORITE TYPE OF PERSON■

SMALL ANIMAL TYPES I FEEL THE NEED TO PROTECT. I'M WEAK TO BEING NEEDED.

■LEAST FAVORITE TYPE OF PERSON■

PUSHY PEOPLE. PEOPLE WHO MAKE ME FEEL WORRIED ABOUT MY SURROUNDINGS... SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY. VIOLENT... TO PUT IT BLUNTLY I'M SCARED OF SOUICHI-KUN. I DON'T HATE HIM, I'M SCARED. - THAT IS KEY

■CHARACTER MESSAGE FROM THE WRITER■

BECAUSE HE'S SOMEONE WHO THINKS LIKE ME, I REALLY UNDERSTAND HIS WORRYING TYPE. BUT, BECAUSE HE HAS GONE HAND IN HAND WITH TATSUMI-KUN TO ANOTHER LAND, HE'LL HAVE TO BE A LITTLE STRONGER! SINCE HE'S A WORRIER, I FELT LIKE HE WOULD BE STRONGLY AFFECTED BY IT. GOOD LUCK~



■NAME■

ISOGAI TAICHIROU

■OCCUPATION■

SALARY MAN

■BIRTHDAY■

...2/1 (AQUARIUS)

■BLOOD TYPE■

TYPE B

■HEIGHT-WEIGHT■

H 175cm W 58kg

■LIKES■

SUBCULTURE. DELICACIES. PRO-WRESTLING

■DISLIKES■

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT DISLIKE, BUT I'M NOT TOO INTERESTED IN BEST SELLERS OR BIG HIT MOVIES. I THINK I'M AN ENTHUSIAST.

■FAVORITE TYPE OF PERSON■

SOMEONE WHO WILL FIND THE SAME THINGS AS ME INTERESTING. OR, IF IT'S AN INTERESTING PERSON, THEM.

■LEAST FAVORITE TYPE OF PERSON■

PEOPLE WHO EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE SO ORDINARY HAVE TOO MUCH PRIDE. BUT IF THAT MAKES THEM INTERESTING IT'S FINE.

■CHARACTER MESSAGE FROM THE WRITER■

HE FINDS EVERYTHING INTERESTING, GENERALLY HE'S VERY GENEROUS, WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN'S REQUESTS, HIS OWN HAPPINESS ALWAYS COMES FIRST. HE LIKES TO TEASE...



■NAME■

TATSUMI SOUICHI

■OCCUPATION■

W UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL
SCIENCE MASTERS PROGRAM

■BIRTHDAY■

...8/2 (LEO) (IN KSB DOCTORATE PROGRAM)

■BLOOD TYPE■

TYPE A

■HEIGHT-WEIGHT■

H 178cm W 58kg

■LIKES■

RESEARCH IS MY LIFE. CIGARETTES AND READING. ALSO, I DABBLE IN KENPO. MY FAVORITE FOOD IS CHICKEN WINGS. SPICY THINGS. I LIKE SNACKS THAT GO ALONG WITH ALCOHOL.

■DISLIKES■

ALL HOMOS. WHY AREN'T THEY EXTINCT?

■FAVORITE TYPE OF PERSON■

SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

■LEAST FAVORITE TYPE OF PERSON■

SOMEONE WHO BOTHERS ME.

■CHARACTER MESSAGE FROM THE WRITER■

SINCE HE IS THE OLDEST SON HE IS REALLY OVERLY SERIOUS AND STUBBORN, TO A FAULT! ON TOP OF THAT, HE HAS MORE OF AN EMOTIONAL GAP THEN HIS BROTHER. HOW ABOUT TALKING TO YOURSELF ONCE IN A WHILE? IF YOU WOULD JUST LOOSEN UP YOUR WAY OF THINKING, THERE ARE A LOT OF FUN THINGS, PROBABLY.





THESE
TWO
WORKED
AT A BEER
HALL

DURING
THE
SUMMER
BREAK
OF THEIR
SECOND
YEAR

ひと夏の思い出
MEMORIES OF ONE SUMMER

AT
THAT
SHOP

ALL OF
THE HALL
STAFF
WERE MEN



I GUESS
YOU COULD
SAY EVEN A
DEAD TREE
ADDS TO
THE
INTEREST
OF A
MOUNTAIN

WELL

"HOTTIE
BEER
GARDEN"

...IS
WHAT IT
WAS
KNOWN
AS

DON'T
CALL ME
A DEAD
TREE

I did pass
the
interview,
you know



JUST
FOR THAT
REASON
IT WAS
REALLY
POPULAR,
BUT

Your
order?

AT
THAT
TIME
THE
NO. 1

WAS A
PERSON
NAMED
MASATO-
SAMA

FLOP...

Kya

Ma
ga
to
Ga
ma

Me next

Just a
minute

Ma
ga
to
Ga
ma

Thanks
for
wait...

aw

I
don't
want
you!

Ma
ga
to

Narrating
in harem
style feels
nice.



I FEEL
KINDA
BAD

YOU ALWAYS
GET SUCH
AN AMAZING
AMMOUNT
OF
PRESENTS!!

I'M NOT
EVEN
INTRESTED
IN
GIRLS.....

I think
everyone
knows
though...

THAT'S
RIGHT

MASATO-SAMA
WAS GAY



THEN
ONE
DAY

IN FACT
HE
DECLACRES
IT WHEN
HE MEETS
PEOPLE

SO IF
YOU
WOULD
LIKE
EVERYONE

THERE
IS TOO
MUCH
TO EAT

YAY
|

YAY
|

So one one
really
minds
now.....

THANKS

Yum

Yum

A-RI-GI-TO

I
WONDER
WHAT'S
WRONG

?

They're
arguing

I'M
GAY...

EVEN IF
YOU SAY
THAT...

You know
that
right?

SO

BUT

YOU'RE
NOT
DATING
ANYONE
RIGHT
NOW,
RIGHT?

WHAT
...

WA!

GRAB

!!?





Break Room

SORRY
SORRY

BUT
THOSE
GIRLS
WERE SO
ANNOYING

WHAT
WAS
THAT
MASATO-
SAN!!?

IF IT
AFFECTS
PROCEEDS
...

I DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING

WELL

IT
COULDN'T
REALLY
BE
HELPED

Hmm
So you
say

AND
THEN
|

F
L
O
P

EH
!?

WHY
!?

THERE IS
AN ARMFUL
FOR
KUROKAWA-
KUN TOO

Here!

EH
...?

THERE'S
MORE...?

Why
...?
...?
...?

?

WHY?
THIS...

a
ha
ha
ha



I'LL
SWITCH
WITH YOU
ANY TIME
ISOGAI.....

CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

WAH —
I'M JEALOUS

← Candy for
Kurohawa



BUT —

We'll work
harder store
manager!!

At least
stay at
the store
the rest
of the
summer

ONE DAY
MASATO-
SAMA
SUDDENLY
QUIT HIS JOB

Good-
bye

I've been
scouted

I'm
going to
be a
celebrity

Masato
magic
...?

SO
WHY IS
THERE
MORE
.....?

Wouldn't

there
normally
be
less
...?

Cheer up!

Kaiko

Break ups
are the start
of new
meetings!!
♥ Yumi

More
...

I don't
have any
Do I? true fans
....

SOB
...

THE ARE
TRYING
TO COMFORT
ME...

IT'S
LIKE...

BESIDES
IT'S JUST
TEPORARY...

IT'S FINE
ISN'T IT?
JUST
ACCEPT
THEM

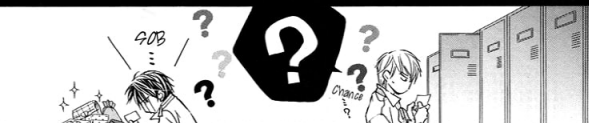
HM?

Clank
...

Bye

Bye

...





I GUESS

u m

AND WE HANG OUT TOGETHER A LOT...

well we are friends...



AS FOR WORK...

SO WE COME TOGETHER A LOT

WE COME STRAIGHT FROM SCHOOL

I urge you Masato-san



THEY HAVE MISTAKEN IT AS THAT...



THAT'S JUST BECAUSE IT WAS SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM...

AH

HEY



EH? WELL I PREFER IT OVER THEM HAVING WEIRD MIS-CONCEPTIONS

BUT IT WAS INTERESTING



EH

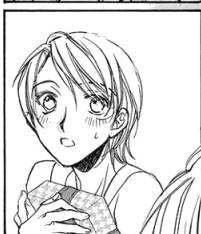
WHY? IT'S FINE

I'm glad



RECENTLY THE PRESENTS HAVE STARTED TO DECREASE





DOESN'T
IT...?

HEH
.....

SEEMS
LIKE...

I'LL HAVE
A HARD TIME
BECOMING
MASATO'S
REPLACEMENT
...



MATERIALS?
YOU LOST
TO
MATERIALS?

WELL
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT

I can't
believe it
I
wanted
this one.

IT'S FINE
ISN'T IT?
SEE, TODAY
I GOT A
WATCH

IF THERE
ARE
RUMORS I'M
GAY I CAN'T
GET A
GIRLFRIEND!

I GOT A
LOT OF
PHONE
NUMBERS

THAT
ISN'T
TRUE?

I'D RATHER
NOT BE AN
ENTERTAINER
!!

U
W
A
A
H
G
H

LET'S DO
OUR BEST
AS ENTER-
TAINERS

AS LONG
AS WE'RE
HERE
WE'RE ON
SHOW

Don,
these
assorted
chocolates
look good

Open







Gasp

.....

NO ONE
IS
LOOKING
...

WHAT
AM I
STUPID
....?

Lin

NOT
THE
STORE...

THIS IS
MY
HOUSE...

WHAT
AM I
DOING....?

HUH
...?

THUMP!

...
UH

WAI
...?

.....



EH
...

WAIT

WHAT

THUMP

AM
I
...

THUMP



WH...

GE
...

clench
...

THUMP

GE-
GE- GET
A HOLD
OF YOUR-
SELF!



UWAA
AAAA
GGG
HHHH

PULL
AWAY

TH-THAT
WAS
DANGEROUS
JUST
NOW
...

SLAM

WHAT IS
THIS
DELUSION!!

ALCOHOL?
IS IT THE
ALCOHOL'S
FALUT!?

AM I
AN
IDIOT
?

SLAM

SLAM

Doesn't
realize
at all

Mmm



I'M
NOT A
HOMO!!

I'M
NOT A
HOMO

I'M
JUST
DEVIL-
ISHLY
FREE

slam

slam



Drip
Drip



THAT
...

ALRIGHT!

IT WAS
NOTHING

Glench

AS I
THOUGHT
I'M
NORMAL

zz

zz

He's unable to do
anything bad
.....

THE
HUNTER
BECOMING
THE
HUNTED...

WAS A
REAL
CASE
OF



That is
summer
love

Did
they
have a
pulling
out...

W
H
I
S
P
E
R
...

W
H
I
S
P
E
R
...

I wonder
what
happened
...

recently
work time
has been
passing
vigorously

I don't
really
know why
but

.....

SINCE
THEN

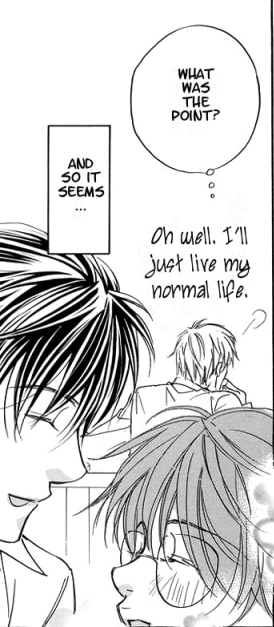
IT SEEMS
ISOGAI HAS
COMPLETELY
STOPPED
THAT KIND
OF JOKING...



IT'S
ALREADY
BEEN...

5 YEARS
SINCE
THEN...

AND EVEN
THOUGH I
STRUGGLED
SO HARD TO
STAY ON
THIS SIDE...



WHAT
WAS
THE
POINT?

AND
SO IT
SEEMS
...

Oh well. I'll
just live my
normal life.



Love
Love

HE SO
EASILY
WENT TO
THAT SIDE...

IT...
MAKES ME
SEEM SO
STUPID...

Because I
turned around
there I'm cool

IS
PROBABLY
BECAUSE
OF THAT
TRAUMA
IN THE
PAST

THAT
THE
REASON
ISOGAI
GETS
SO
UPSET
FOR
BEING
MISTAKEN
AS A
HOMO

Over Imaginative ☆ Morinaga-kun ♡



His imagination too strong, the virtual is reflected in reality.

Too cliched!!

Morinaga-kun ☆ A man who doesn't learn ♡

I forgot about this.

SINCE
IT'S
COME
TO THIS
THERE
ARE
NO
MORE
OPTIONS

How about this

Chitoseame

Put it in
a bag
...
and

Morinaga-kun ☆ A man who doesn't give up

It's the type that doesn't break apart

So he'll
have to
suck on
it

It should be
this!!

Stick
Juice!
a
from
one.

ahaha
I guess
I just
chose
the
wrong
thing.

TWIST

BEND

17

ΠΟΛΙΤΕΙΑ

SHINRA

CRUNCH
CRUNCH

Snake
Snake

... TWIST ...

Here
have the
other
half

Buy the ones that are easy to breathe

There
is too
much
in one
of
these
isn't
there

チャレンジャーズ スペシャルインタビュー

遂に最終巻を発売した「チャレンジャーズ」登場人物、
エピソードなどについて、高永先生にインタビューしてみました。

まずは、無事完結おめでとうございます。

◆有難うございます。完結巻を無事出版していただける日が来るなんて夢のようです。本当に有難うございます。

改めて最初から読み返すと、いろいろな発見がありますね。実は黒川さんがモテ男設定だったり(笑)

◆再出版にあたり、読み返してびっくりした、自分でも忘れてた設定です…(笑) つまりきつと、当時の私は、プロット段階ではステキな「攻め」を描くつもりだったんでしょうね…。デビュー作だし。なのになんであんななっ

ちやつたんだらう!? 黒川さん。だけどもう最初のキャラ設定のラフとかどっかいっちゃつたので定かでないのですが、貢(みつぐ)なんていう名前付けてる時点でヘタレキャラにする気満々だったとも考えられ…なのにモテ男設定で…。当時の私を理解できない…。

磯貝さんが振られ続けるのはなんでなんでしょうね…

◆頭もいいし、面倒くさくなくて面白い人だと思っんですけど、ドライに見られがちなのかもしれないです。あと、趣味が色々マニアックなところが良くない…。麗子さんみたいな人がお似合いだと思うんですが、彼女はタンナ持ちだしなあ…え? 黒川さんに構います

きたから? あ、あら、まあ、ほほほ(動揺)…ええ、そんなウラ設定を考えたこともありません…(白状)だって、当時周囲でさんざん黒川は受けだ!と言われたんですよ。言われるとつい考えちゃうんですよ!むしろ暗示なんですよ!(今回の話は…その残り香が…げふげふ…)所詮ウラ設定だし、そっちでも成立はしてなかったもので、勘弁したって下さい…若さゆえの過ちなんです…(いや、もちろん今は若くないんですけど…) ホントすいません…。

描きそこねたエピソードなどがありましたら教えてください。

◆ボツにしたネタはいっぱいありますけど…。ああ、そういえば東京のホテルに泊まり損ねて一晩行方不明になった異君を心配してキレかける宗一さんとか、第一話での頭末を受験後に異君から聞かされて、黒川さんに疑心暗鬼な宗一さんとかの短編は、ネームまで切りました。でも今となっては、パンチの欠けてる兄さんなので、やっぱりボツですね。

最終回で、2人がアメリカに……というのはいっ頃から考えていた設定だったんですか？

◆割と最初の頃ですよ。リックが出てきた頃には、もう決めてました。っていうか、あのラストは、ファーストフードでバイトする黒川さんのネタが描きたくて……(笑)

黒川さんはアメリカで何をしてるんだと思われませんか？

◆結果的に、主夫。二番目の義理パパがアメリカ人という設定もあったことだし、英語には割合早くなじんで、バイトみたいなことはすぐ始められたんじゃないかな。だけど、だんだん異くんが忙しくなってフォローしてるうちに、結局主夫に落ち着いてしまったという感じ。きつと異君が稼いでくれるので大丈夫です。まあでも、通常の家庭のように子供が生まれるわけでもないで、拘束時間が割合自由なバイトくらいはしてるかも。カフェの給仕とかのイメージ。

磯貝さんの家賃はあまりに……惨いと思うんですが……

◆折れた黒川さんが悪いのです！この世は戦場なのです！

今回の小冊子は、磯貝さん視点のストーリーだったんですが、描いてみていかがでしたか？

◆なかなか新鮮でした。黒川さんが全く攻めオーラを失っていましたね。ってか、最初からないか……。磯貝さんが黒川さんの寝姿に動揺したところは、描いてる自分も動揺しました。磯貝、しっかりしろ！……(笑)まあ描いてる時の私は、大抵いつでも動揺してるんで、今更ですけど……

そもそも、二人(磯貝さんと黒川さん)のくされ縁はいつごろからで、どのようににはじまったんでしょう？

◆大学に入ってからという設定です。実は今回の話の冒頭「大学の科は同じだけど顔見知り程度だった二人。磯貝

さんのバイト先で欠員が出て、事務局のバイト掲示板に募集を出しに行く磯貝さん。そこで黒川さんを見かける。

黒川さんは学生時代から一人暮らしだったので割のいいバイトがなかった。

磯貝のバイト先は見栄えがそこそこ以上の人しか働けない分高額時給で、磯貝が「こいついいかも」と思って、その場で黒川さんをスカウト。そこで初めて親しく言葉を交わす」という(長い割にどーでもいい)エピソードがあつて、そこでくされ縁が始まるはずだったので、話のノリとページジの都合でザックリなくなりました。なくした以上この設定はなかったことに。なので……多分入学してから、フツーに親しくなったんだと思います。黒川さんの天然ぶりを磯貝が面白いなと思ってくっついてるカンジ。

コミックス4巻の最後で、宗一兄ちゃんにお茶を出してあげる磯貝さんが大好きなんです……

◆きつとお茶菓子も出してあげたと思います。

宗一兄ちゃんのキャラはいつ頃できたんですか？

◆あんまり覚えてないんですが、確か第一話が掲載された後です。巽君のキャラを考えてた時に、「この子には面倒見が良すぎる兄さんとかいそう」くらいは考えてたと思うんですが、このキャラで続編を描いてもいいよと言われてから、嬉しくなつて色々バツクグラウンドを詰めたんだっと思えます。

ＢＬ界には様々なキャラがいますが、今も「チャレンジャーズ」連載當時も宗一兄ちゃんのような(凶悪な…)キャラはあまりいない気がするんです、気をつけて描いていることはありますか？

◆そんな持って回った言い方しなくても、ハッキリミニア受けと言ったらいいじゃないですか！(被害妄想)
気を付けてることでしか。一応…彼の暴君ぶりが、彼なりの正義に基づいての行動であり…ただの暴力とかワガ

ママに成り過ぎないように…してるつもりなんですけど、どうかな…(汗)
森永君にはちよつと甘えが出てしまっているかもしれないです。

高永先生からみた、宗一兄ちゃんの魅力を語ってください。

◆あんな人ですけど、実は家族思いです。(そこ？)

あ、それから…今まで私が描いたキャラの中で一番の感度良好受け設定です。(衝撃の事実)

実は…サイトのほうに「宗一さんは森永君とのエッチを凄く嫌がっているが、森永君はヘタなんですよ。痛いんですよ」というご意見が寄せられたことがあります。あの…違うの…むしろ逆なの…。あれだけホモ嫌いな宗一さんが、最中は森永に上手く逆らえていないところに着目して欲しいの…。ただ痛いだけなら、とくに森永を殺してる…よ…多分…(あ…？)兄さんの魅力か？これ…ただ、嫌がっているのは事実なので…そこまで解

らないですよ。すいません。彼は行き過ぎた真面目さんで、頭が固いだけなのです。そのうちちよつとずつ素直になる日がくるかもなので、お楽しみに…。

「チャレンジャーズ」で高永先生が最も描きやすいキャラは誰ですか？また、描きにくいのは？

◆描きやすいのは黒川さん。思考の仕方が私と一番似てるから。描きにくいのは巽君。一番考え方が理解しにくく動かしにくい子です。顔は描き易いけど(笑)

「チャレンジャーズ」は高永先生の初めての連載作品だったと思うのですが、連載中で印象にのこってる出来事があったら教えていただけますか？

◆実は一回ドラマＣＤの企画を頂いたことがありました。二冊目(白泉社版)が出た直後くらいだったかな？結局その話は流れてしまったんだけど、企画書などをとても面白く拝見したことを

覚えてます。その後アシさんとかと、もし実現してたら声優さんは誰になったかなあなどと盛り上がりたりしましたねー。ありえないけど、深夜枠で実写でやるとしたら誰がいいか？なんて話にもなって、黒川さんは筒井●隆がいいとか、麗子さんは、かた●梨乃がいいとか……まあ、言うだけはただなんでも……(笑)……ファンの人すいません……

現在、GUSHで「恋する囃子」(森永×宗一兄ちゃんのラブストーリー)を連載中ですが、今後他の「チャレンジャーズ」キャラ(黒川さん、巽くん、磯貝さん、リックなど……)が登場する可能性はあるんでしょうか？

◆もちろん出てくると思います。どこまで描けるかとか、展開によっても違ってくるとは思いますが、アメリカ勢はともかく、黒川さんや磯貝、巽君はきつと出てくると思います。そちらサイドがお好きな皆様はどうぞお楽しみに！

読者のみなさまに一言お願いします。

いつも読んで下さって有難うございます。また今回は小冊子にまで応募していただいて本当に有難うございました。なのにお届けするのがこんなに遅れてしまつて、本当に申し訳ありませんでした。デビュー作、第1話が初めて商業誌に掲載されてからもう10年になります。いつまでも同じシリーズを引っ張るのもな……と思いつつ、思い入れのあるキャラ達なので、描く場を与えて頂ける状況に、つつい甘えている自分です。これも読んで下さる皆さんが居て下さるおかげ……本当に有難うございます！黒川さんと巽くんカップルのほうは、一応これで一段落ですが、森永×宗一のほうはもうちょつと続く予定です。出来れば見届けてやって下さい……。もちろんこれだけじゃなく、もつともっと面白い漫画を描けるよう、日々精進していこうと思つてますので、これからも応援してやって下さい！有難うございました。



CHALLENGERS

チャレンジャーズ小冊子
GUSH COMICS「チャレンジャーズ」応募者全員サービス

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CHALLENGERS
SPECIAL EDITION

PRESENTED
BY
HINAKO TAKANAGA

KAIOHSHA